



# Wretched Prescott lurches amid smoking wreckage

**D**eputy Prime Minister! One heartbeat from Britain's war leadership! As Mr Blair's second-in-command trudged from the Chamber yesterday, thunder-faced while the Opposition jeered, earnest prayers for the health of our Prime Minister winged skywards.

Commentators ransacked the metaphor of misadventure to convey the scale of his debacle as stand-in for Tony Blair at Prime Minister's Questions. Some called it a humanitarian catastrophe, but we will be sparing. His wheels came off. All of them. Prescott left the road over-

turned, demolished a wall, hit several trees and came to rest upturned in the smoking wreckage of his ministerial reputation. We may now never know whether Mr Prescott did know what the "withholding tax" was.

It all started with Alan Beith. The bland, blinking Beith deputised for the Liberal Democrat Leader as Blair is in Brussels and, when the Chief's away, Parliament stages a Battle of the Pygmies.

To be roughed up by somebody bigger is bad enough, but by Beith! He asked Prescott if it were true that class sizes had risen. Funk number

one. Too proud to admit it but too clumsy to duck, he replied that Labour was "on target" with a manifesto pledge. Reminded mildly that the answer was Yes, he dug deeper. Beith had "asked if we were on target," he insisted.

"No he didn't," MPs shouted. "Well that's the answer he's going to get," said Prescott.

He lurched moments later into a tangle with Slavic pronunciation, denouncing some-

(C. Worcestershire W) took aim. Could Prescott guarantee there would be no withholding tax?

Withholding tax? Panic in his eyes. Colleagues freeze, helpless to rescue. He rises. Must answer. Something about "tax" in it. He bellows about a tax he does know, the Tory poll tax. He tries a defence of the local government financial settlement.

Stunned silence all around. Have we misunderstood? Then MPs begin to laugh, howl, hoot. He ploughs over the IRA, reminding MPs that, hanging over us, was "the sceptre of violence".

Spouting a wounded bull-elephant, Sir Michael Spicer

shout as he collapses into his seat. That could have been the end of it but a fuse had now blown in the Prescott brain.

To a question about the National Forest, Prescott's answer seemed to be about the railways; everyone barracked; Prescott explained to Madam Speaker that he had thought he was answering a different question. Miss Boothroyd took pity and, meaning to help, told MPs to check Order Papers and see what question they were on. Confused by the laughter, Prescott took this as a reprimand — then apolo-gised to the Chair for his first apology. New questions

arose. He kept losing his place in his notes. Pauses lengthened to eternities.

Everyone but the Deputy Prime Minister was in the Commons Chamber. But Mr Prescott was in a sort of cosmic vortex, his briefing notes blowing about; arguments, Slav names and impossible taxes hurtling at him out of a black void, mocking laughter and Speaker's reprimands echoing from the dark.

We have all been there, my friends. Hilarity turned to embarrassment and one found it hard to look. This, without doubt, was John Prescott's longest half-hour.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### A merry new year for pubs

Millennium revellers will be able to drink around the clock, the Government has announced. The Home Office said the results of a recent consultation exercise seeking views on opening hours for New Year's Eve had supported the Government's preference for an all-night relaxation of licensing hours.

The plans will allow pubs and clubs to open from 11pm and throughout the night on New Year's Eve, with pubs eventually returning to normal opening hours at 11pm closing on New Year's Day.

The arrangements would come into effect in time for the Millennium celebrations and would apply to subsequent New Year's Eves.

The Government added that special powers would be put in place to limit the opening hours of premises causing nuisance.

### Judiciary 'needs greater scrutiny'

Judges should appear before Parliament to be questioned about their views on a range of political and legal matters before being appointed to top judicial posts, Liam Fox, Tory spokesman on constitutional affairs, said in a lecture to the Politeia think-tank. He said that greater scrutiny of the appointments system was needed because judges had increasingly usurped the role of elected politicians as the power of Parliament had diminished.

### College claimed

### £6.4m too much

A further education college must repay £6.4 million after investigations found that its managers had misused public funds. Halton College, in Widnes, Cheshire, was found by the National Audit Office and Further Education Funding Council to have overclaimed funding for students. The principal and his deputy spent the equivalent of almost one year in the past five abroad, on college business, and have been suspended prior to a disciplinary hearing.

### Doctor accused over baby death

A Sudanese obstetrician who fled Britain in August 1997, days after the death from head injuries of Amos Tut, who was delivered by forceps, is facing a manslaughter charge over the case, the General Medical Council said. The Crown Prosecution Service is monitoring the movements in Saudi Arabia of Helmi Nour, then at Queen Charlotte's Hospital in West London, in case he visits a country with which Britain has an extradition treaty.

Today is the final day that the writ for the by-election can be moved in the Commons in time for a May 6 contest. Labour's preferred date — the day of the local council elections — and those for the Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly.

### Lifting lid on Roman coffin

The mysteries of a Roman coffin found last month within a stone sarcophagus in the City of London began to be unraveled last night. Archaeologists from the Museum of London, which unearthed it in Spitalfields, began the process of opening the coffin. For health and safety reasons they had to wait until the last visitor had left the museum before they could lever up the ornate lid that covered the coffin for some 1,800 years.

Leading article, page 23

# Car firms face pressure after airbag verdict

By RUSSELL JENKINS

CAR manufacturers were under pressure last night to warn motorists of the potential dangers of airbags after an inquest into the death of a woman from a rare skull fracture in a head-on collision.

Jennifer Reichardt, 47, was thrown backwards in the driving seat by the force of an expanding airbag, and is believed to be the first motorist in Britain whose death has been blamed on the safety feature, although there have been 16 deaths recorded in the United States since they were introduced in the early 1980s.

A jury at the inquest in St Helens, Merseyside, brought in a verdict of accidental death, but Christopher Sumner, the coroner, said that the case was of such importance that he would be sending a transcript to John Prescott, the Transport Secretary.

After the hearing, Miss Reichardt's family criticised carmakers and ministers for failing to publicise dangers.

Her partner, Kenneth Unsworth, 56, said: "We as a family would strongly criticise the British motor industry, the Department of Transport and,

on this particular occasion, the Rover motor group for, in our view, glossing over the dangers and the fact that every motorist with an airbag is driving around with a bomb or missile in their car and wearing seatbelts will not, of itself, prevent injury or death."

"We do feel the motor industry has a lot to answer for and that, following this tragedy, they should take more positive steps to bring the dangers to the buyer's attention, particularly when they advertise airbags as a safety feature."

Miss Reichardt, of Rainhill, St Helens, was driving her N-registered Rover 414 at only 19mph home from work in the early evening in January last year when she collided with a 13-year-old Opel Ascona on a bend. The driver of the other car, which did not have an airbag, was able to walk away from the wreckage.

Miss Reichardt, however, suffered an extremely rare "ring" skull fracture, which an experienced accident and emergency doctor at Whiston Hospital immediately concluded was the result of the airbag throwing her head back on to

the headrest. Ernest Gradwell, a pathologist, said that Miss Reichardt's fatal injury had been caused by a blow of similar force to someone jumping from the top of a building.

Julian Hill, a research fellow at the Birmingham Accident Research Centre at Birmingham University, told the inquest that Miss Reichardt was killed by the force of the expanding airbag as she was thrust forward by the accident. But he suggested that she appeared to be sitting "uncomfortably close" to the steering wheel.

A spokesman for the Rover group said: "There is nothing we can do until we have seen the full inquest report. We are waiting for a transcript of the evidence, which is quite routine in such matters."

The Society of Motor Manufacturers said last night that car occupants should position their seats at the furthest reasonable distance from the airbag.

Tests are currently being carried out in Britain on "smart" airbags, which can automatically adjust to the position of each occupant.



After the storm: Brenna the border collie was left a little under the weather yesterday

LAURA ASHLEY

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# Freak tornado gives dog a lift

By HELEN RUMBLE

IT HAS been raining dogs in Suffolk, where a mini-tornado lifted a border collie off its feet and dropped it into the sky.

The freak twister in Pentlow was part of the bitterly cold weather that will plague the country until the weekend. There is also a risk of flooding as strong rising winds and up to four inches of snow coincide with the spring high tide, particularly on the East Coast.

During yesterday's foul weather, Brenna, a border collie, took shelter in its kennel, but was lifted high in the air and smashed down again 15ft across a farmyard. Its owner, Pamela Bowers, 46, watched aghast from the kitchen window. "I heard this noise like a tractor coming down the farm drive," she said. "There was a huge gust

of wind and chairs and things started flying past the window." She saw Brenna's kennel sailing by. "It somersaulted twice. I thought, 'Oh my God, the dog's in there.'" Brenna was a little shaken, but unharmed.

The Meteorological Office said that thunderstorms had given rise to this rare British tornado. Snowstorms have moved south with the Met Office issuing warnings of more heavy snow in north Somerset, Bristol, south Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

This extreme version of April showers may continue beyond the weekend. Those who may benefit are the 30,000 runners in the London Marathon on Sunday, when it is forecast to be 11C.

Forecast, page 26



Moore: wants to wait for a safer Labour seat

# Deal 'is up to Ulster parties'

Downing Street sees no point in a Blair visit, reports Martin Fletcher

they presenting any new ideas for resolving the impasse caused by the IRA's refusal to start decommissioning its weapons and the refusal of David Trimble, the First Minister, to admit Sinn Fein to an executive until it does.

On a day of growing rancour the Women's Coalition joined Sinn Fein and the Progressive Unionist Party in criticising the Hillsborough Declaration — the plan issued by the two Prime Ministers before Easter to break the impasse by removing any connotations of surrender from the act of decommissioning.

Mr Blair, Mr Ahern and Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, are expected to meet in London today to try to chart a way forward.

At Stormont yesterday the parties held a second successive day of talks, but there was no sign of any progress or of

mine will become increasingly hard as the Euro-elections approach and the marching season intensifies. None of the parties wants to "park" the process for the summer but without a breakthrough soon that may be the least bad option.

Parties opposed to the accord seized on Mr Blair's failure to return. "The Prime Minister, having received a bloody nose from the two parties fronting terrorists, Sinn Fein and the PUP, has obviously no stomach for a rematch," said Cedric Wilson, of the Northern Ireland Unionist Party.

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# Oxford takes a punt on pedalos

Alex O'Connell test-drives a boat that has offended Cherwell purists

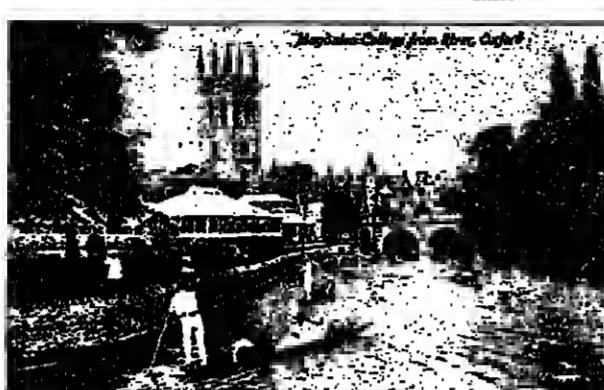
**THE** graceful art of punting down the Cherwell is under threat from a new breed of pedalos, identical in shape to a punt, but lacking the pole.

The candy-striped, pedal-powered craft, introduced last month at Magdalen Bridge Boathouse in Oxford, have outraged purists from Magdalen College.

"I think it's a monstrous carbuncle and the first step in the Disneyfication of Oxford," Ben Johnson, president of the Junior Common Room, said. "The only mitigating factor is that the most common punting customers are Italians, who are not natural sailors. They may find the pedalos easier than the pole."

Stewart Wood, Junior Dean, fellow of the college and speechwriter for Tony Blair, was equally offended. "It looks like the sort of punt they'd use in a Cornetto ad," he said yesterday. "It's horrendous. Tourists will not know whether they are in Venice or Oxford."

Howard & Son, which runs the boathouse, commissioned the craft from Damian Brown, who has a boat-building business in Witney. The fibreglass pedalos, which have detachable canopies, cost £2,500 each, compared



The old: Edwardian punters by Magdalen Bridge

with £3,500 for a traditional wooden punt. They cost £10 an hour to hire, compared with £9 for a punt. They are proving popular with Spanish, Italian and German tourists, and Andrew Howard, a partner in the business with his father, Derrick, expects to have up to eight in operation by midsummer.

He believes that, rather than pushing the traditional punts off the water, the pedalos will provide an alternative for users short on co-ordination and manual dexterity.

"The reaction has been good so far," said Mr Howard, whose family has run the company for nearly 100 years.

with all the dignity and poise of a step-aerobics instructor.

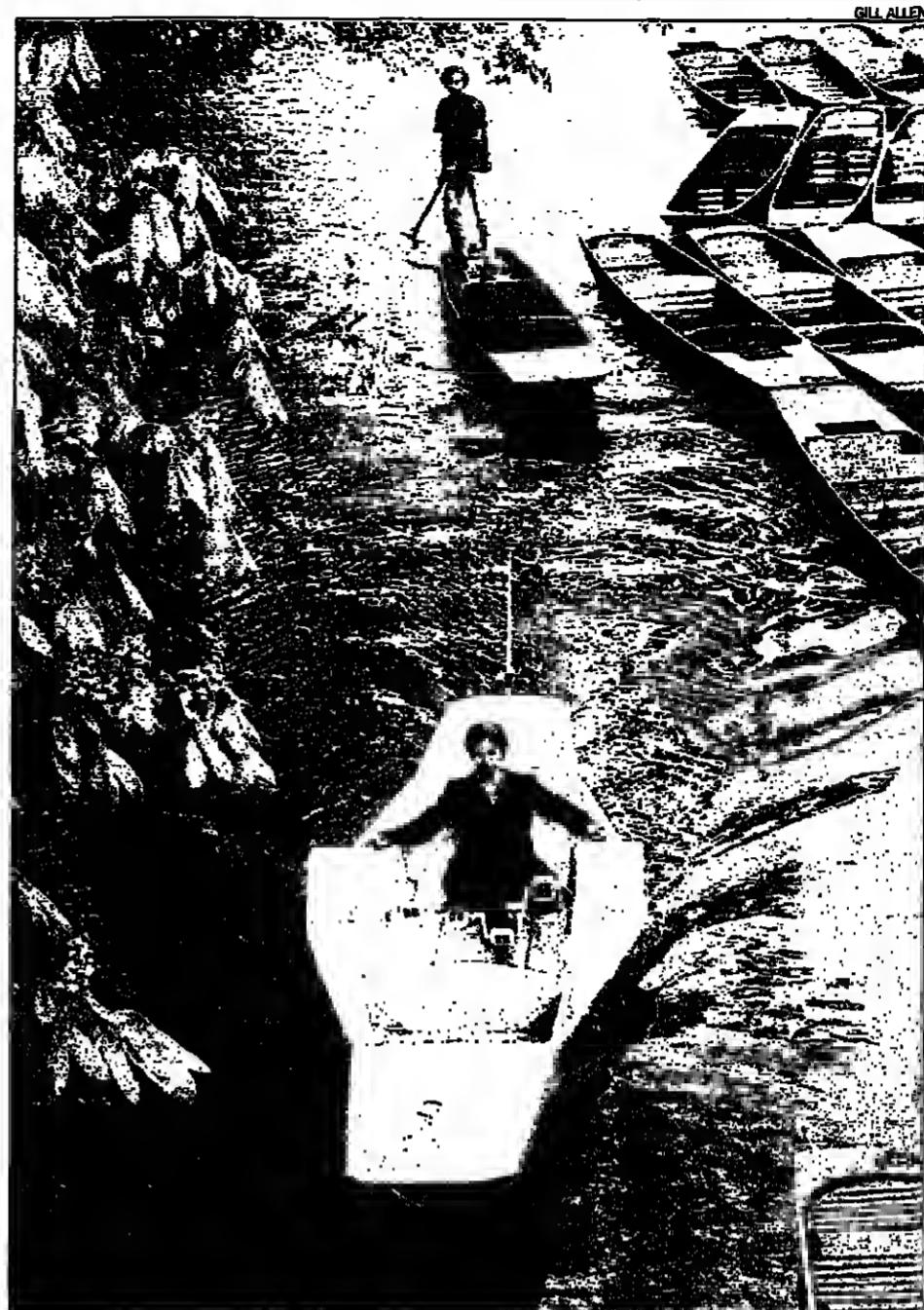
The pedalos, which has a rudder, is easier to manoeuvre to the left or right, but is difficult to steer precisely. Rather than gliding swan-like down the river, it shuffles along like an overenthusiastic doggie paddler.

Luke Bevans, 21, a third-year history student at Magdalen, was concerned that the pedalos would be a less romantic vehicle for evenings on the river. "It will not woo the girls in the same way, and anything that is not as good at impressing the ladies has to be a bad thing."

Lucy Shackleton, a third-year Classics student at Girton College, Cambridge, and a punt guide on the Cam, said the pedalos punts were unlikely to catch on there. "I can't see Cambridge resorting to that method, but here the punters are more refined than at Oxford."

Mr Johnson retorted: "That's rubbish, they are the sort of tacky thing that would become extremely popular at Cambridge."

Kevin Sproule, 30, who works for Howard & Son, said: "The tourists will love them. So it doesn't really matter what the students think."



The new: Alex O'Connell in a "pedalo punt", which she describes as undignified

## Survival group leader 'killed by best friends'

By RICHARD DUKE



THE leader of a college survivalist group called The Brotherhood was stabbed to death by his two closest friends, who burnt and dismembered his body before it was buried in a shallow grave, a court was told yesterday.

Russell Crookes, 17, was murdered as he walked in woods he styled "training grounds" near Hadlow College in Kent, set in 640 acres outside Tonbridge, where he and his alleged killers studied torture. The reason his friends turned on him may have been because the teenager, who weighed 14 stone, had become a bully and called them names.

Maidstone Crown Court was told yesterday that Graham Wallis, 18, and Neil Sayers, 19, stabbed him repeatedly in the chest with two knives as they walked together in the woods in May last year. His body was then doused in bar-

ham, Kent, were doused with orange juice before the body was moved 200 yards and buried amid stinging nettles.

Wallis, from Croydon, South London, has admitted murder and is the main prosecution witness against Mr Sayers, who denies the charge.

Wallis is expected to tell today how his victim, who liked books about war and survival, was killed in the early hours of May 14. Yesterday Wallis described how Mr Crookes had begun to get on his nerves by calling him "Lord Ponsonby" and Mr Sayers "Pansy" because he thought the latter might be gay. He also took to calling them Wallace and Gromit.

Wallis was on half-term holiday in Shrewsbury with his parents when he was arrested. Mr Sayers, of Gillingham, Kent, said he had no part in the killing and that Mr Crookes had been alive when he last saw him.

The case continues today.



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**Mardi Gra bomber is jailed for 21 years**

BY STEWART TENDER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

EDGAR PEARCE, the Mardi Gra bomber, was jailed for 21 years at the Old Bailey yesterday for a blackmail and bombing campaign "motivated by greed and an insatiable appetite for notoriety".

Sentencing Pearce, 61, from Chiswick, West London, for a series of attacks over 3½ years against Barclays Bank and Sainsbury, Michael Hyam, the Recorder of London, told him that his devices had injured people and could have killed.

He told Pearce, a former advertising executive and restauranteur, that he had shown "a cynical disregard for the physical and mental safety of the public".

The judge said that a great deal of public money had been spent to catch him and that Barclays had been forced to spend an extra £140,000 in security measures.

Last week Pearce admitted 20 offences including blackmail, causing explosions, causing actual bodily harm, unlawful wounding and firearms offences. Yesterday the judge rejected a plea for him to be sent to Broadmoor and told him that his guilty plea was inevitable because of the evidence against him.

He told Pearce that he must serve a long sentence to protect the public and deter others.

Thomas Stuttaford, page 20





# Anger over Pinochet charges

Supporters claim new allegations filed by Spain to bolster case for extradition have been trumped up

BY JOANNA BALE,  
GABRIELLA GAMINI  
AND GILES TREMELL

SUPPORTERS and opponents of General Augusto Pinochet were locked in a dispute yesterday over new charges sent by Spain to Britain to bolster the extradition case against him.

As the general waited under house arrest for a fresh decision by the Home Secretary, which is expected today, his supporters claimed that the new charges had not been authenticated. Fernando Barros, the former Chilean dictator's legal adviser, claimed that several of the 33 new cases sent in the past two weeks were minor cases of police brutality against ordinary criminals.

His claims were vigorously contested by prosecution lawyers helping the Spanish investigating judge, Baltasar Garzón, in his attempt to extradite the former dictator.

The controversy came on the eve of Jack Straw's decision on whether to allow General Pinochet's extradition in the wake of the second law lords' ruling. The law lords recently ruled that the general had no immunity from extradition, but that he could only be



Pictures in Santiago of those who disappeared during General Pinochet's dictatorship. Spanish lawyers say new allegations have been authenticated

extradited for torture cases that were alleged to have occurred after Britain signed the International Convention on Torture in September 1988.

Señor Barros said: "These are cases of common criminals who were allegedly abused by the police. There is no reason to connect them to the president of the country."

But prosecutors and human rights groups said that all of

the charges forwarded to the Crown Prosecution Service, which has been instructed by the Spanish Government to act on its behalf, had been independently verified. Prosecuting lawyers in Madrid said that they had presented Judge Garzón with almost 100 new cases and that he had selected only those that he thought were well documented.

The new cases had been sent

to London after the CPS asked Judge Garzón for fresh evidence against General Pinochet the day after the law lords' ruling. The CPS specifically asked for new cases that were alleged to have occurred after September 1988.

The Spanish judge, who had received some 85 further charges, sent on 33 new cases to add to the eight on the original charge sheet sent to London

several months ago. Alun Jones, QC, who represents the CPS, was handed a list of 11 more names when he visited Judge Garzón in Madrid last week.

Judge Garzón, a Santiago lawyer studying for a PhD in London, said that Judge Garzón was abusing the extradition convention by failing to investigate cases before adding them to the list of charges.

He said that new cases had been compiled by communists-backed human rights activists.

But prosecuting lawyers in Madrid said that they had always used more than one source for their cases. Most cases featured either in official Chilean human rights reports or in reports from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, they said.

A spokeswoman for the CPS denied that the extradition convention was being abused, and said that Judge Garzón was not required to give full details of the charges until the committal hearing, much later in the process. "The Home Secretary makes his decision based on the type of offences being alleged and the background to them. At the committal, magistrates have to consider what the charges are and whether they are extraditable. The evidence isn't really tested until it gets to Madrid," she said.

Prosecutors in Madrid said that the extradition treaty assumed that British and Spanish courts trusted each other when they said there was sufficient evidence to bring charges. "That is why Spanish courts do not ask to see *prima facie* evidence before extraditing people wanted in Britain," one said.

Prosecuting lawyers ac-

## CLASH OVER CASEBOOKS

# Activist died of electric shock

WILSON Valdebenito Juica, 28, was a left-wing activist whose violent death at the hands of the police appears to confirm official torture even in the final days of the Pinochet regime (Giles Tremlett writes).

Señor Valdebenito, who was married, worked in the mining region of Cabildo as a *pirquinero*, a freelance searching abandoned copper mines for minerals. His case is one of the eight included in Baltasar Garzón's original charge sheet, which the investigating magistrate sent to London before the law lords decided that General Pinochet could be extradited only for cases after Britain's 1988 ratification of the Torture Convention.

Señor Valdebenito's case is clearly acceptable for study by a Spanish court, because of the date, evidence and the nature of the victim. "And remember, you may need one case to extradite somebody," one of the Spanish prosecuting lawyers said yesterday.

On December 15, 1988, a week after the Torture

Convention became law in Britain, Señor Valdebenito was picked up by police as he left a bar. As secretary of the local branch of the Piquineros Union, he was involved in organising the miners.

A few hours later, his body was discovered dumped by a country road. The corpse had been badly burnt by electric shocks. A blue electric cable was wrapped tightly around his right wrist and threaded through the belt loops in his trousers.

"He had been in contact with a high electric charge which provoked his immediate death," the autopsy report, carried out at Chile's Institute of Medical Law, said.

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Judge Garzón's evidence for the case is based on the corporation's report.

## 'Police abused their authority'

GENERAL Pinochet's supporters point to the cases of two Chilean workshop employees as clear examples of how the Spanish investigating judge, Baltasar Garzón, has failed to check his facts. They say they are simple cases of police abuse of the type that still occurs in Chile and in many other countries.

Victor Manuel Labra and Guillermo Salvador Calderón were employed by a mechanical workshop in the town of Talagante. Señor Calderón had been in trouble with the police previously. Neither man is known to have been politically active. The workshop owner reported them to the local police because he believed they had tried to steal a engine.

They were picked up by the police in July 1989, and initially confessed to the alleged crime.

A trial was held. The confessions of both men were produced and they were sent to prison. An appeal court later cleared them and the two men alleged that the confessions had been

beaten out of them. "They were beaten on their hands, feet and testicles. Señor Labra was thrown to the ground, causing his nose to bleed," Judge Garzón alleges in a writ sent to London on March 26, just two days after the Lord's decision, in which he added 33 new cases to the extradition warrant.

Fernando Barros, the Chilean law professor who is helping to guide General Pinochet's defence in London, said the fact that the local police used violence in their attempt to send the two men to jail did not prove that General Pinochet was systematically using torture for political ends.

Prosecuting lawyers in Madrid agreed it was possible that the evidence had come from the Corporation of People's Rights (Codepu), a group that Señor Barros claims is associated with Chile's far left. They said the Torture Convention did not differentiate between political and other motivations for committing torture.

David Benmioa dearth

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cused Señor Barros of spreading "deliberate disinformation" ahead of Jack Straw's decision. They said that more than half of the 14 cases provided by Señor Barros as examples of Judge Garzón not bothering to check evidence were not on the lists sent to London. Many of the sources used by Señor Barros have been the subject of controversy in Chile. The National Truth and Reconciliation Report, commissioned by the democratically elected government of Patricio Aylwin in 1990, and more commonly known as the Rettig Report, listed 2025 people killed during Pinochet's 17-year rule. Of these, 957 had disappeared and 90 were killed by civilians in political clashes. A second government report published in 1996 added nearly 1,000 more names to the list.

The reports had no judicial weight in Chile, and the Rettig Report faced heavy opposition from the right-wing military and political parties aligned to the general. There were frequent death threats against the commission members.

Patrick Robertson, General Pinochet's British spokesman, said that the case against the general was seriously flawed. "Garzón is making serious mistakes in his personal vendetta against Senator Pinochet in a desperate attempt to keep the case going," he said.

### CORRECTION

A report (Pupils turn GCSEs into a comedy of errors, April 12) wrongly attributed 20 schoolboy blunders to GCSE candidates. In fact, the mistakes were those of students in the United States and were entirely unrelated to schools and educational standards in the United Kingdom. We regret the mistake.

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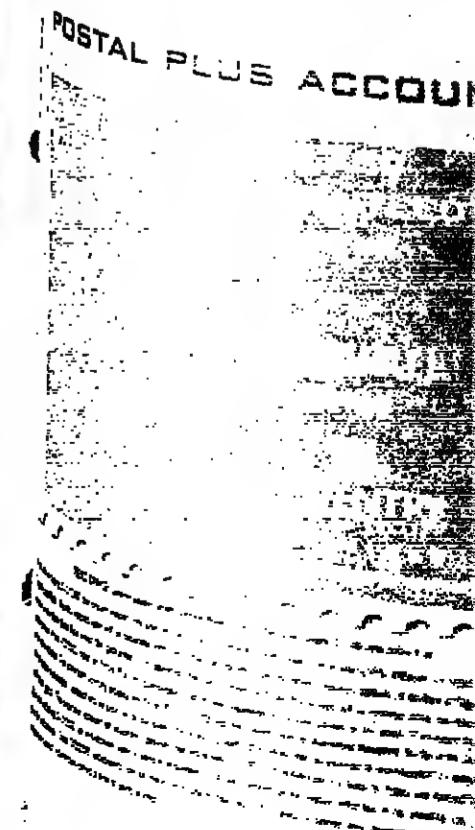
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# Bees 'spread genes from GM crops'

THE Government is to review guidelines on the isolation of genetically modified crops after a study found that bees could carry pollen four kilometres from test sites.

Farm scale trials to assess the environmental impacts of the crops have just begun with "buffer" zones between them and the countryside of just 50 metres. Government rules on commercial plantings of gene altered crops suggest buffers of 200 metres.

But the new findings, published yesterday, indicate that a revised strategy may be needed to allay public concern. The 4km distance is much further than previously supposed and indicates that any attempt to confine genes from such crops to the fields in which they are grown will prove futile.

The researchers claim that the spread of so-called "transgenes" from farm to farm will be widespread should commercial plantings go ahead. The findings have come from a team at the government-funded Scottish Crop Research Institute in Dundee who unveiled the results yesterday.

Michael Meacher, Minister for the Environment, admitted that bees in particular could take pollen large distances from test sites. In a House of Commons written reply yesterday, he said that despite precautions "it has to be recognised that bee activity may in

some cases involve the dissemination of GM pollen beyond the isolation distances traditionally used".

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment said that studies were under way into the consequences of bees transporting pollen over large distances. He said the existing isolation guidelines would be reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment in the wake of these studies.

John Crawford, one of the research team, admitted that it had been surprised by the findings. He said that the distance over which oilseed rape pollen travelled had been unknown and of little consequence.

But concern over the impact of gene altered crops was concentrating scientific minds. "We were getting cross-pollination over large distances. There is no doubt that pollen from genetically modified crops will get out," Dr Crawford said.

The scientists planted male-sterile oilseed rape plants at 52 sites. They were positioned between zero and 4,000 metres from a 70sq km field in which oilseed rape was being grown.

Using male-sterile plants meant that seeds produced by the plants were as a result of cross-pollination from the field rather than self-pollination.

The scientists found that pollination occurred at all the test sites. Nearly 90 per cent of flower buds were pollinated one metre from the field. But even at 4,000 metres away, 5 per cent of flower buds on the test plants had been pollinated.

The team says in its paper to a conference at Keele University: "The results suggest that the farm-to-farm spread of oilseed rape transgenes will be widespread."

Dr Crawford said bees could be the key to pollination at huge distances. "Bees carry a lot of pollen concentrated on their bodies. So the amount of pollen getting to a plant could be quite significant," he said.

Green groups are likely to seize on the findings to claim that superweeds, immune to herbicides, will develop in the countryside if gene altered crops are approved.

They will also alarm organic farmers who are concerned that gene modified crops will cross-pollinate with plants

such as sweetcorn, nullifying their organic status. Last July a West Country organic farmer lost a case in the High Court to have trials of gene altered crops near his farm scrapped.

A judge supported the Government's position that the risks of cross-pollination was "likely to be zero".

Adrian Bebb of Friends of the Earth said yesterday: "This research throws current thinking out of the window. It confirms that pollen from these mutant crops will be a problem for most farmers and will spread into the countryside quicker than previously thought."

He urged the Government to back calls by bodies including English Nature who have demanded a three to five-year moratorium on commercial plantings of gene modified organisms.

The findings come as Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, gave warning that multinational companies could "misuse their power" to foist genetically modified food on to Third World countries. She said that companies could "force this technology on to countries unknowingly — either in importing food that is the product of such technology, or seed."

Ms Short said an agreement on a biosafety protocol, covering rules on international shipments, was urgently needed.



Nicola Sturgeon of the Scottish National Party at the Rooftops Nursery, Edinburgh, yesterday. She said that the SNP would consult widely on education reforms

## SNP in disarray as Labour seizes on budget gaffe

THE SNP campaign to win control of Scotland's new parliament was in disarray last night after it backed off on the true cost of independence. The party refused to confirm whether an independent Scotland would be saddled with a £2 billion budget deficit.

Promising Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, to challenge the nationalists to "come clean over the cost of divorcing Scotland from Britain", The Times disclosed yesterday that senior SNP strategists have concluded that an independent Scotland would have a budget shortfall of around £2 billion in 2000-01 before moving into surplus.

Mr Dewar yesterday wrote to Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, demanding that he say how an SNP government of an independent Scotland would plug the hole in the country's finances. Labour said the deficit would result in an income tax rise of 35 per cent.

The nationalists argue that the Scottish deficit is smaller relative terms than the overall deficit for the United Kingdom. They point out that the latest official spending figures put the UK deficit at £32 billion for 1996-97.

Labour, which says that independence would be an economic disaster, described the disclosure as "a very significant development" in the parliament election campaign.

Douglas Alexander, the MP who is co-ordinating the Scottish Labour campaign, challenged the SNP to publish its economic strategy for independence without delay. Mr Alexander added: "They appear to be conceding a £2 billion black hole in their independence plans — the equivalent of more than 8p on the basic rate of income tax."

Magnus Linklater, page 22

## Scots facing recession

Scotland is on the verge of a full-scale recession with unemployment set to rise at its fastest rate since the early 1980s, a leading economic think-tank claimed. Business Strategies said that while the UK as a whole will suffer an economic slowdown this year, Scotland will post the worst performance with an outright decline in growth for a second consecutive year. However, a separate survey showed faint signs of recovery. The Scottish Chambers of Commerce said optimism was improving in all areas of the economy, except the manufacturing sector, although growth remains weak.

## Graham pulls out

Tommy Graham, the expelled Labour MP, has abandoned plans to stand against his former party in the parliament election. The MP for Renfrewshire West had intended to stand in Paisley North against Wendy Alexander on May 6 but has pulled out, citing ill health. Mr Graham said he recently spent ten days in hospital for treatment after contracting a virus. He was expelled last year after an investigation into factionalism and Labour membership irregularities in Renfrewshire. Investigators concluded that Mr Graham had brought the party into disrepute.

## Stand and deliver...

Bemused delegates at a conference in the Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh, were asked to "hand over their jewels" by four members of the Scottish Socialist Party, including the former Leith MP Ron Brown. The group, brandishing water pistols and dressed as characters from the Quentin Tarantino film Reservoir Dogs, were protesting against the Private Finance Initiative, which delegates were discussing. Colin Fox, SSP spokesman, said they chose the film theme to "bite back at the fat cats taking part in daylight robbery of Britain's public purse".

## QUOTE of the day

Henry McLeish: on Labour plans to seize assets of suspected drug dealers without a conviction

"These are dramatic and draconian measures but we make no apologies for what we want to do"

## today's AGENDA

The campaign moves to the north of Scotland. William Hague makes a whistlestop tour of the north east, talking to lorry drivers about road tax and diesel costs. Alex Salmond will be in Inverness and Ewan Donald Dewar will launch Labour's vision for the Highlands and Islands in Dingwall. Jim Wallace concentrates on the health service and waiting lists in Edinburgh.

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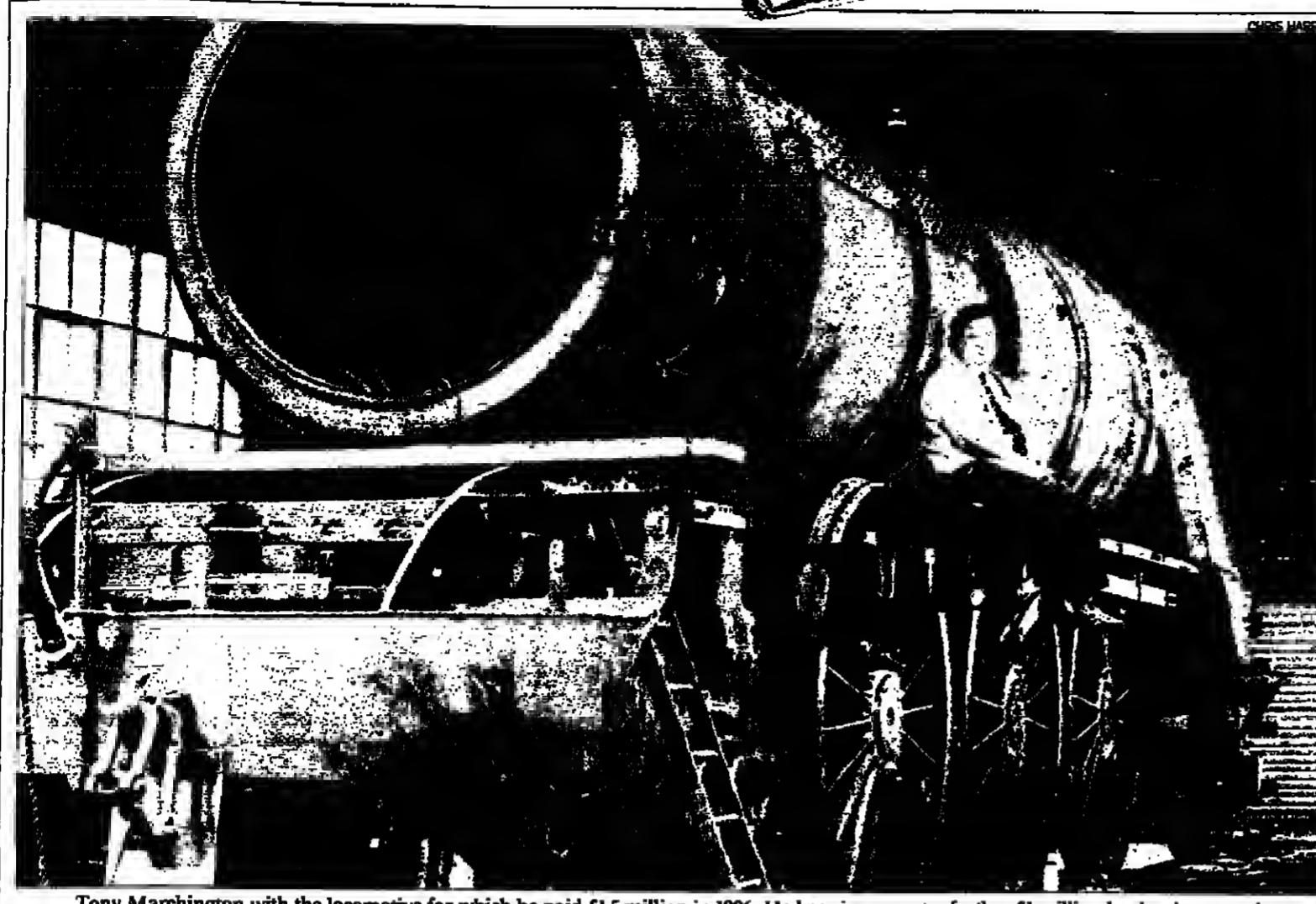
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Tony Marchington with the locomotive for which he paid £1.5 million in 1996. He has since spent a further £1 million having it restored.

## DNA tests convict rapist, 8 years on

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A RAPIST who brought fear to women in the Midlands and the South was jailed for life yesterday after being apprehended eight years after his last attack, thanks to a DNA test.

Keith Samuels, 35, who struck at night while his victims were alone at home, carried out the attacks between 1984 and 1990. The women awoke to find him crouching in their bedrooms and were raped at knife-point. Nottingham Crown Court was told.

Sam Mairns, for the prosecution, said the attacks had stopped when Samuels was jailed for an unrelated armed robbery. Eight years later he was arrested on a minor charge and was linked to the犯人.

Mr Justice Tucker told Samuels: "You were for six years – and, in my opinion, remain at risk of being – a menace to women." Five of Samuels' seven victims were in court to see him sentenced.

The father of two began his reign of terror in Northampton near his bedsit. Police believe he chose women in Victorian terrace houses as his victim because he was familiar with the layout of the buildings. He struck four times in Northampton between 1984

and 1987, and also carried out attacks in Milton Keynes, Reading and Leamington Spa.

He admitted seven rapes, an attempted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm.

He asked for 87 other offences,

including burglaries, passing stolen cheques and robberies,

to be taken into consideration.

He had begun to use escort agencies after being released from jail. When the jobless former factory worker could not afford the escorts, he started to use stolen cheques. He gave false names and took care never to go back to the same place.

But he was caught out last year when he met a woman in Rugby whom he had cheated in Leicester.

Detective Superintendent Chris Cross, who led the police hunt, said: "She recognised his voice and had the presence of mind to arrange a meeting. She then contacted the police."

Two constables were lying in wait for Samuels. The officers became suspicious at his violent reaction to being arrested for a relatively minor offence. Progress in forensic science had by that time enabled DNA profiles to be developed, which showed that all seven rapes had been committed by the same offender.

Realising that he fitted the description of the rapist and was on a list of suspects, police carried out a DNA test. Mr Cross said: "Samuels' name was eighth on the list of people from whom DNA samples should be obtained, so we would have eventually arrested him. The process was short-circuited by two alert officers who went out of their way to follow up their suspicions."

After the hearing one of his victims said the rape had shattered her life. The 38-year-old said: "For the first 18 months I was frightened to go into my own house at night."



Samuels: caught eight years after last attack

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## Flying Scotsman on track for comeback

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE Flying Scotsman, the first train to travel at more than 100mph, will return to the railways this summer after a £1 million restoration. Even today, few trains can beat the speed record that the locomotive set in 1934.

The 160-tonne engine, painstakingly restored, is to be used for charter journeys on part of its old London to Edinburgh route. It will travel between King's Cross and York.

The restoration was master-minded by Tony Marchington, a 43-year-old pharmaceutical entrepreneur, who bought the locomotive in poor working order for £1.5 million in 1996. Its rebuild was carried out at a former Great Western Railway shed at Southall, West London. Brought in help from rail enthusiasts and companies that specialise in renovating locomotives. Dr Marchington supervised the repair or replacement of every part of the engine.

Flying Scotsman will run



The Flying Scotsman: first train to travel at 100mph

out of King's Cross on July 4 on a £350-per-head return trip to York including drinks and meals – the start of regular mainline charter services. It will take four hours for the 212-mile trip to York.

Built in 1923, the Flying Scotsman ran about two million miles in service before being withdrawn in 1963. It was taken over by a succession of private charter services. It set its 100mph record on a test run from Leeds to London.

### LINKS

[www.flyingscotsman.com/index.html](http://www.flyingscotsman.com/index.html) The Flying Scotsman Association  
[www.nrm.ac.uk/nrm/](http://www.nrm.ac.uk/nrm/) The National Railway Museum in York

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## BALKANS WAR: BELGRADE FUNERAL

# Milosevic's opponents mourn shot editor



**Tom Walker** watches as moderate Serbs see their hopes for democracy buried with an outspoken journalist who condemned Nato's bombing

SHORTLY before Slavko Curuvija's funeral procession in Belgrade's new cemetery yesterday, the air raid all-clear siren sounded. On a spring day of whispers and hidden thoughts, this was perhaps the most powerful metaphor, not only had the all-clear sounded on Nato's bombs, but also on the Serbian opposition that they have so successfully destroyed.

It was a time for those opposed to President Milosevic's regime to be seen and not be seen. Being beneath the gently swaying limes and horse chestnuts was a matter of pride but also of courage, for all knew that among the 2,000 mourners were elements of state security monolith keeping tabs on potential fires of rebellion. Mr Curuvija, who was 50 when he was killed outside his flat last Sunday — the Orthodox Easter Day — was a curious, unpredictable figure during life. In death, the flamboyant newspaper owner-editor has become a martyr for thousands in Belgrade who dream of a new dawn for Serbia.

His paper, *Dnevni Telegraf*, was a constant thorn in the side of the régime, and his magazine, the *European*, even more outspoken. Amid the censorship of war, their editorials were buried with him yesterday. No one from the Government attended, but the funeral procession was a who's who of actors, mu-

sicians, artists and writers — all of whose lives have been made measurably worse by airstrikes. Those politicians expected to attend did so — such as Zoran Djindjic, the Democratic Party leader, and his new colleagues from the fledgeling "Alliance for Change". Vuk Draskovic, once the figure-head of the battle to unseat Mr Milosevic, but now his partner in government, did not, but his wife Dana was there, as was the Mayor of Belgrade, an office held by Mr Draskovic's party. Before the stretch-Lada hearse moved off and the band struck up its lament, Ljilja Smajlovic, an editor of the *European*, told the mourners about Mr Curuvija's last meeting with staff on the day he died. "He told us two things," she said. "He would not put out a paper to suit the censors, and that the Nato aggression was immoral and illegal."

"He was a great journalist, and it was an honour to work for him. He was a courageous man, unlike those cowards who slew him in the back, and those cowards who bomb from the skies." The slow walk then began through the cemetery, one of Belgrade's most beautiful spaces, where city noise is lost among trees and graves often overgrown by wild roses and brambles.

Not even a madman, stumbling across the freshly dug earth shout-

ing "It was a hit job, a Serb hit Serb," could divert her steady gaze. Others turned and wept, but Jelena remained, staring at the wooden cross.

"Slavko knew Nato would put democracy in Serbia back by 50 years," said another woman, an old family friend, walking towards the gates. "We stand no chance for as long as the West feels that Serbs deserve to be destroyed."

Mr Curuvija's mother, Cuka, almost incoherent with grief, moaned: "The oppressors killed him, but I can see that he had many friends, thank you, thank you."



Mourners lead the procession in Belgrade during the funeral yesterday of Slavko Curuvija, a Serbian journalist and newspaper owner who was murdered on Sunday

## Rugova 'forced to sign Serb deal'

FROM TONY PATERSON IN BELGRADE

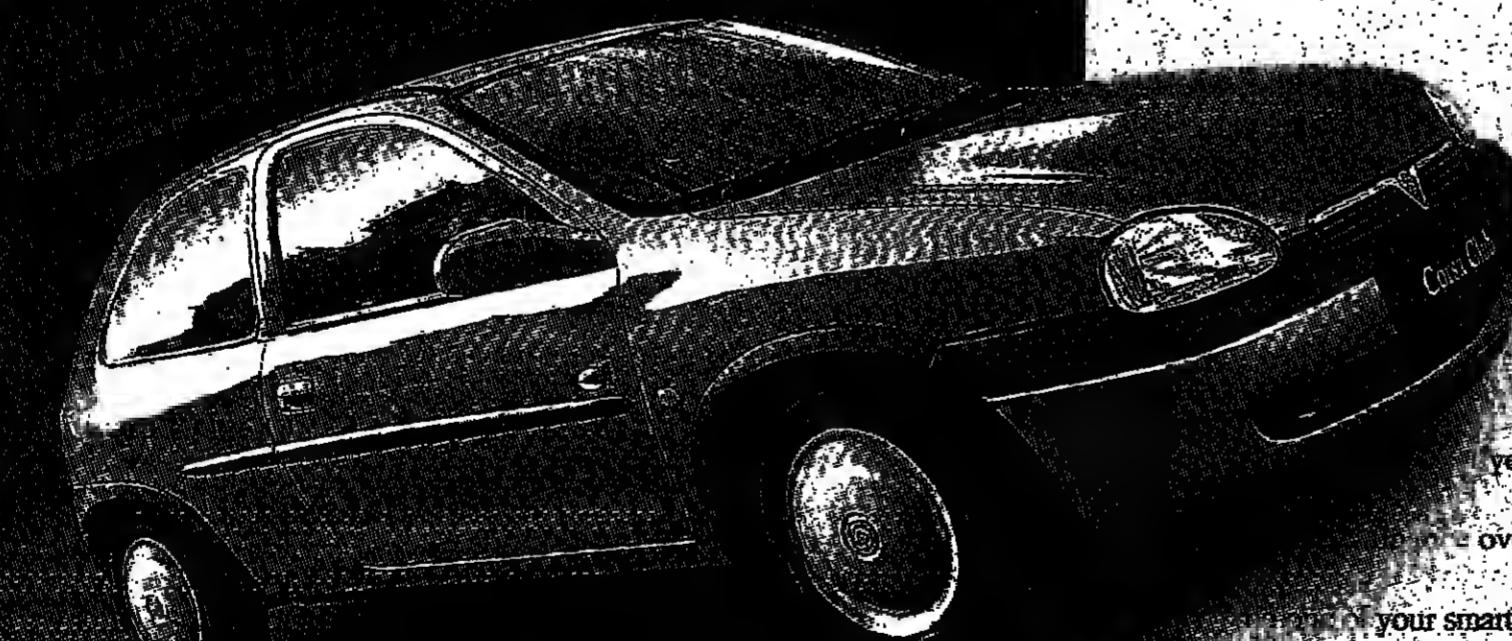
Serb television with President Milosevic and coerced into signing a communiqué that his people wanted a peaceful "political solution".

Fran Flottau said police surrounded Mr Rugova's house on March 31, and he was held with his wife, three children and 11 family members. Frau Flottau posed as a relative. Telephone lines and aerials were ripped out of the three-storey house and they lived on toast and watery soup. On April 1 he

was driven to Belgrade to meet Mr Milosevic to "discuss a solution". Mr Rugova said the Serb leader "swore like a trooper" about Western leaders. He was then put in front of cameras with Mr Milosevic and told to sign the statement.

Fran Flottau managed to get out when the Russian Ambassador to Belgrade called at Mr Rugova's house on April 5. She said the Kosovar leader was still being held against his will.

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## BALKANS WAR: THE REFUGEES

# New human wave crosses to Macedonia

NATO forces and aid agencies in Macedonia were gearing up for a fresh influx of refugees from Kosovo yesterday after more than 3,000 people arrived on trains and buses at the Blace border crossing.

The new arrivals may delay the handover of the camps by Nato to civilian relief agencies; the transfer began earlier this week and was expected to be all but complete by tomorrow.

Even as hundreds of refugee children staged a "Thank You Nato" march through Brazde, the largest of the transit camps where refugees are nervous about Macedonian policing once fewer Western troops are around to curb abuses, the arrival of two trainloads and three buses of exiles threw the proposed timetable into question. Brigadier Tim Cross, commander of the UK National Support Element, said the refugees claimed there were more behind them.

"This may be the beginning of a second wave of refugees. We cannot see beyond those hills. We should not assume anything but we are planning to absorb as many as we can."

The mood at Brazde and the other camps was positive yesterday, now that Royal Engineers and troops from other Nato countries, who set the tents up within 48 hours of the

**Stephen Farrell  
and Joanna  
Bale see Brazde  
camp start to  
fill up again**

huge initial influx, have brought them to the stage where United Nations agencies and international charities can take over the running of medical facilities, food distribution and sanitation.

Brazde, which now holds 25,000 to 30,000 refugees, has spare capacity after 7,000 were relocated to other camps last week. Brigadier Cross said yesterday Nato would provide more logistical help if needed, and confirmed that he and the Macedonian Government were examining plans for expanding Brazde, which lies on an ideal site with ready access to water supplies.

The sudden influx of more than 3,000 refugees at Blace, and 1,000 at the smaller Lajane border post, comes after the arrival of more than 1,500 people in the three previous days. Prior to that no-one had been permitted to leave. The surge has prompted fears

among aid agencies that President Milosevic is expelling refugees again to destabilise a Macedonia which is reluctant to take more ethnic Albanian newcomers.

Most of yesterday's arrivals came from Urosevac, with some cars being allowed through from Pristina and Prizren. A UN refugee spokeswoman said none complained of ill-treatment, saying they had simply been told to leave immediately and were allowed to keep their jewellery and travel documents. "It is a good indication that there is at least a little more freedom of movement," she said.

After arriving at the Blace border, where until recently 65,000 were housed in squalid conditions, they were put on 20 buses and taken to Brazde. Food and water were rushed to the crossing where the 3,000 were kept waiting in the heat for hours by delays on the Macedonian side.

Igoba Zumberi, 34, her husband and four children were forced out of their homes yesterday. "The whole town is in ruins, it has been completely destroyed," she said. Adem Hasani, 38, and wife Ajete, 28, and their three-year-old daughter Anita, were given ten minutes to leave Ferizaj. "We are just glad to be safe," he said.

## Shell hits Albanian school

FROM SAM KILEY  
IN VLAHIM,  
NORTHERN ALBANIA

SERB forces yesterday continued their attacks on Albanian border villages, shelling Vlahim to force Kosovo refugees sheltering with local families to flee as Kosovo Liberation Army troops prepared a counter-attack.

According to both those who live here and KLA commanders in the village, which is surrounded on three sides by

Serb artillery positions and a battalion of troops occupying the valley head, Serb infantry infiltrated several hundred yards into Albania — the second such move in as many days — clearly intent on killing Kosovo civilians — and hitting rebel bases.

Five mortar rounds were fired into the grounds of Vlahim's primary school. No one was hurt in the dawn attack, but the effect on people's lives was devastating. Shikigim Ahmeti, 28, a farmer who re-

mained in the village after the attack, said all the women and children, as well as 800 Kosovo refugees, had fled down the valley to the nearby town of Krume. "There are just a few guys here now. We have stayed behind to fight the Serbs if they try to come into our country," he said.

Thousands of new recruits, many Kosovars from America and Europe, have hurried to join the KLA, but they face a shortage of heavy weapons, and lack the skills to use them.

A group of ethnic Albanian refugees take the place of earlier arrivals who have now left the Brazde camp at Blace



OLEK POPOV / REUTERS

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Yeltsin appoints envoy

Moscow: President Yeltsin has appointed Viktor Chernomyrdin, the former Prime Minister, as his special representative for dealing with Yugoslavia (Anna Blundy writes).

Mr Chernomyrdin is one of Russia's most West-leaning politicians.

The appointment, which came after Mr Yeltsin survived an impeachment vote in the Duma, is viewed as a sign that Russia is keen to soften its anti-Nato stance. Mr Chernomyrdin said that he may soon visit the United States "for meetings at the highest level".

### Mafia on a war footing

Gioia del Colle: Business is booming for organised crime bosses making hand-to-hand sales of supplies to the Nato bases in southern Italy (John Phillips writes).

Police say local hoodlums are also involved in smuggling illegal immigrants from Kosovo and quo running across the Adriatic Sea to Albania. Montenegro and Albania are favoured hideouts for mafia bosses on the run.

### Fleet shows its teeth

Moscow: Russia's Black Sea Fleet is set to carry out exercises there, and its warships are ready to sail to the Mediterranean (Anna Blundy writes). Passage for nine Russian warships to pass through the Bosphorus has been approved by Turkey. The exercises are seen as part of a Russian attempt to scare Nato into ceasing its military action against the Serbs.

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## BALKANS WAR: THE BURDEN

# Reservists await US call to arms

FROM BEN MACTINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

THOUSANDS of army reservists — from Midwestern farmhands to members of Congress — are waiting to hear whether they will be called up for active service in Kosovo as America boosts its military muscle in the Balkans.

The Pentagon expects to ask President Clinton to authorise the mobilisation of military reserves, most importantly to provide flight crews for the 382 additional aircraft requested by General Wesley Clark, the Supreme Allied Commander, but also as army liaison personnel on the ground and back-up troops for the Apache helicopter attack force.

The US Army Reserve, with 1.4 million people potentially available for duty, is principally composed of former armed forces members who spend at least one weekend a month training and are liable to call-up in times of conflict.

Nine members of Congress could be summoned for immediate service, but many others appear on the lists, of whom the most distinguished — and least likely to see action in Kosovo — is Strom Thurmond, the 96-year-old Republican senator who is a retired general in the Army Reserve.

He took part in the D-Day landings as part of the Glider Infantry Regiment of the fabled 82nd Airborne Division, but had to obtain

special dispensation to fight because he was already 41. Mr Thurmond is not on the active list, but Ben Gilman, 76, Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, is among those who could technically get the call to arms. Most reservists, of course, are in their twenties or thirties.

More than doubling the air armada in the Balkans has placed fresh strain on the US Air Force and many of the extra planes, such as aerial refuelling tankers, cannot be flown without the addition of a force of reservists.

The Pentagon has also indicated that it is likely to mobilise more of the National Guard, the state military forces that the Government can call on during conflict and disasters. Several hundred Air National Guard volunteers are among the 22,000 US soldiers on duty in the National operation.

"If we increase the tankers sent over, the National Guard and the Reserve will have to make up the crew. We can squeeze a few more from active duty, but the majority will have to be the Guard and the Reserve," said Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Wynne, of Scott Air Base, Illinois, from which most refuelling tankers fly.

During the Gulf War in 1991, the largest recent mobilisation of Re-

serves, about 230,000 from the army, navy, air force and marine corps were returned to active duty.

Reservists are also likely to be called up as part of Task Force Hawk, the 24 Apache helicopter gunships, back-up helicopters and missile batteries now heading to Albania, supported by about 2,600 troops. "Civilian soldiers" will probably make up a significant proportion of the Civil Affairs Units, non-combat troops who liaise with local people and civilian authorities.

Reservists fall into two categories. About 900,000 "Drill Reserves" are men and women who have served in the armed forces or, more rarely, civilians who have undergone an intensive 180-day basic training course. These continue to train for two days every month, and 15 consecutive days a year. Behind them are the 500,000 "Individual Ready Reserves", former servicemen and women who do not train but remain on standby.

The Pentagon has estimated that the Yugoslav operation will cost between \$3 billion (£1.85 billion) and \$4 billion, although congressional estimates reach \$5 billion.

Even before Operation Allied Force, the US Air Force was complaining of a lack of pilots and low recruitment. Air patrols over northern Iraq have had to be suspended.

American airmen at Italy's Aviano Air Base yesterday assemble a 500lb GBU-12 laser-guided bomb



## Apache force may double

FROM IAN BRODIE  
IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon was considering plans yesterday to double the number of Apache attack helicopters to be used against Serb troops and tanks deep inside Kosovo.

The expansion would put a task force of 48 Apaches on the Albanian border, as well as a huge array of armour and ground troops. Talk of increasing the force, a classic example of "mission creep", came as the US Army was still scrambling to make the first batch of 24 Apaches operational, which is now expected early next week, two weeks after the decision to send them.

The Pentagon said that it had not yet been finally decided to double the number of Apaches, after a report that General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander, had asked for reinforcements.

But the idea clearly was looked on favourably. Kenneth Bacon, chief Pentagon spokesman, said: "I think it's entirely possible there will be additional helicopters over time, but I would not think that would come immediately."

The army was concentrating on getting the first Apaches into place, "but there could well be more later," Mr Bacon said.

An increase in Apaches would be viewed in the context of the growing Nato build-up in the border countries of Albania and Macedonia from which a ground assault could be launched.



## Nato will need UN help to keep regional peace

Michael Evans, Defence Editor,  
sees allies being over-extended

Alliance governments are talking of the need to develop a Balkans-wide strategy. But the key element of any such policy will unavoidably mean maintaining an almost permanent military presence in the region.

Bosnia-Herzegovina is already a huge drain on resources. Last year Nato planners proposed that the 30,000-man Nato-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia could be reduced by about 10,000 because of the relative-

ly peaceful environment and increasing focus on civilian reconstruction. However, the war between Yugoslavia and Nato will have changed such calculations. The continuing stability of Bosnia has to be one of the key elements of any Balkans strategy, which means that the 30,000 troops — of which 5,000 are British — look set to be a permanent feature.

The commitment to Kosovo is also written in stone. Nato has estimated that it

needs about 28,000 troops to implement a peace settlement if Belgrade signs an accord. A similar — or larger — force would be needed to protect refugees returning to their homes, without Belgrade's permission.

No one doubts that this military commitment would be required for more than three or four years. Once Nato troops are in Kosovo, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to extract them, unless the political regime in Belgrade changes beyond recognition.

Military planners always include an "exit strategy" in their operations. But in Bosnia there was never going to

be an easy exit. Troops are still there after seven years. Kosovo will be the same.

When UN peacekeepers

were first sent to Bosnia, the

British Government offered

troops for an initial six

months. There were even sug-

gestions that the Nato ele-

ments of the UN Protection

Force could be rotated with

troops from other nations

after six months to a year.

Montenegro, which has had the courage to speak out against President Milosevic, would also have every reason to expect Nato to guarantee military assistance or support with up to 5,000 troops.

However, such a huge mili-

tary commitment for the Bal-

kan is clearly beyond Nato.

The problem will have to

be resolved politically, not

militarily, and only one world

organisation has the ability to

meet such a challenge: the United Nations.

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مكتبة الامان

## Erotica leaves Frenchmen cold as women take dominant role



Siffredi: fresh approach after £1,000 porn films

FRENCH males were quivering like frightened rabbits yesterday with the release of what is already becoming a cult film about crude and unashamed female sexuality. *Romance*, which blurs the distinction between hard-core pornography and art, is likely to mark contemporary France in the same way as *Emmanuelle* set its stamp on the 1970s.

Its release yesterday is the most dramatic sign yet of radical changes in a society where sex has always been male, and love female.

Directed by a woman, Catherine Breillat, and featuring a male porn star, Rocco Siffredi, an Italian, the film explores a female eroticism that was supposed to exist in France

A film marking a new sexual revolution has divided society, writes Adam Sage in Paris

only inside traditional loving relationships.

Roselyne Bachelot, one of a handful of women MPs, said: "Men were allowed to have brute sex for its own sake, but we were only allowed sex as a reflection of feelings." Until now, that is.

Mme Breillat's work features adventurous sex orchestrated by the star, Caroline Ducey, from a female perspective that is increasingly dominant in French culture.

Whereas Sylvia Kristel was the object of male desire in *Em-*

*manuelle*, Signor Siffredi is thrust into the opposite role. Even before the film's release, intense publicity meant that almost all French women were aware of his dimensions and performances.

They have also discovered that while he has risen to every challenge in his 1,000-film pornographic career, the demands of Mme Breillat and Mme Ducey were so great that he suffered the indignity of momentary deflation on the set last year.

Reaction to the film among ex-

perts was divided. Most women critics admired the film, described by Isabelle Potel of *Liberation* as a "successful adventure into the female body". Their male counterparts were reduced to bewilderment.

"Brothers, we have to admit that Mum's a whore," wrote André Bercoff, of *France-Soir*. His response was indicative of the state of mind of the average Gallic male.

Having lapped up the sexual revolution of the 1960s, which multiplied the number of partners but did little to alter the balance of power, French men are now petrified by the cruder female version that is fashionable.

Yesterday there was clear evi-

dence of this shift on the streets of Paris. The department store Galeries Lafayette placed three female models in its windows to promote a new collection of lingerie.

A decade ago the sight of largely unressed young women would have drawn hordes of leering and boastful men. But those who passed yesterday appeared embarrassed and unsure of themselves.

Sébastien Sissa, 22, went puce and shuffled from foot to foot when asked what he thought of the models. His father, Alain, 48, said: "For me, they are not an object of desire at all."

They were, of course, but few Gallic males are now prepared to admit to a desire that has been out-

stripped by the modern female fantasies promoted by French culture.

*Romance* is the most obvious example. But there are others. Last year, the film *L'Ennui*, by the director Cédric Kahn, featured a young woman, played by the actress Sophie Guillemin, who enjoys sex but has no feelings for the multiple partners who fall desperately and suicidally in love with her.

The most popular novel of the past 12 months, *Les Particules Éphemères*, by Michel Houellebecq, is in the same vein.

Its central characters are a middle-aged man who is obsessed with a catastrophic sex life and his brother, a scientist, who abandons sexual activity altogether.

### WORLD IN BRIEF

## Berezovsky arrest warrant dropped

MOSCOW: Russia withdrew an arrest warrant for Boris Berezovsky, the country's most influential billionaire who promised to return to Moscow to face the charges against him (Anne Blondy writes).

Mr Berezovsky, a close friend of the Yeltsin family though he is loathed by the public, is accused of transferring £155 million from Aeroflot, Russia's largest airline, to a spurious Swiss company. "I confirm that I will come back to Moscow this week," he told Interfax yesterday from his Paris hotel. Mr Berezovsky says that the charges are part of a vendetta against him on the part of Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister.

## Electron hit by boycott

ALGIERS: A day before a planned presidential vote in Algeria, six out of seven candidates announced their withdrawal in protest against fraud in early voting, throwing the crucial election into question. The move would leave only the military-backed Abdelaziz Bouteflika in the running. It was not immediately clear whether voting would go on as planned. The election was intended to give Algeria a civilian president and reconcile a nation reeling from an Islamic insurgency that has killed 75,000 people in seven years. (AP)

## Ten face crucifixion

KHARTOUM: A Sudanese tribunal has sentenced ten people to death by crucifixion after tribal clashes left 131 people dead, a daily newspaper said. Judge el-Amin el-Tayeb found the defendants guilty of initiating the conflict in West Darfur, which is still under a state of emergency. *Akhbar Al-Yousou* reported. The sentences have yet to be approved by the Supreme Court. The February killing of three Arab nomad chiefs sparked the disturbances in and around Geneina, the state capital, which left another 85 people injured. (Reuters)

## Goodbye to 'Allo'

PARIS: A French gossip magazine has been ordered by a court here to give up its name because it cashes in on the reputation of the British title *Hello!* and its Spanish sister publication *Hola!* Prisma-Presse, the owner of *Allo*, as the seven-month-old French magazine is called, was ordered to pay £153,000 for breach of copyright and given four months to find a new name. *Hola!*, which had tried to start up a French franchise, had been forced to settle for *Oh La!* (AFP)

## Winning hands down

NEW YORK: Mark Kenny, 34, a salesman, won hands-down in his attempt to set a Guinness world record. He walked on his hands down 1,200 steps of the Citicorp building, beating the previous time for the same distance in *The Guinness Book of Records* by more than four minutes. The challenge took him 51 minutes and 22 seconds. Mr Kenny set his first Guinness world record in 1994 by completing a 50-metre dash on his hands in 16.9 seconds. (Reuters)

## Starr calls for end to role of prosecutor

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

KENNETH STARR said yes-  
terday that America should never see his like again.

In a move that invited comparison with a turkey voting for Thanksgiving for the others in the farmyard while he lives out his old age, President Clinton's tormentor said that there should be no more independent prosecutors.

Mr Starr, giving evidence to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, said that the Watergate-era law that created the office of independent prosecutor should be allowed to lapse when it comes up for renewal in June. He argued that the post does not work and the nation would be better off scrapping it.

The man who has come to personify the role of independent prosecutor and has been fiercely criticised by supporters of the Clintons as an overmighty witchfinder-general zealously probing into the darkest corners of private lives, said that the public had not been left with a feeling that investigations of political figures were free of partisanship.

"I recommend that the statute not be re-enacted," he told the committee; investigations should be conducted by the Attorney-General and the Justice Department.

He was not, however, calling for his own destruction for, whatever the committee decides, those independent prosecutors like himself, who are already active, will be able to wrap up their business.

Mr Starr said that the attacks on him had been damag-

ing. "The assaults took their toll. A duly authorised federal law-enforcement investigation came to be characterised as yet another political game."

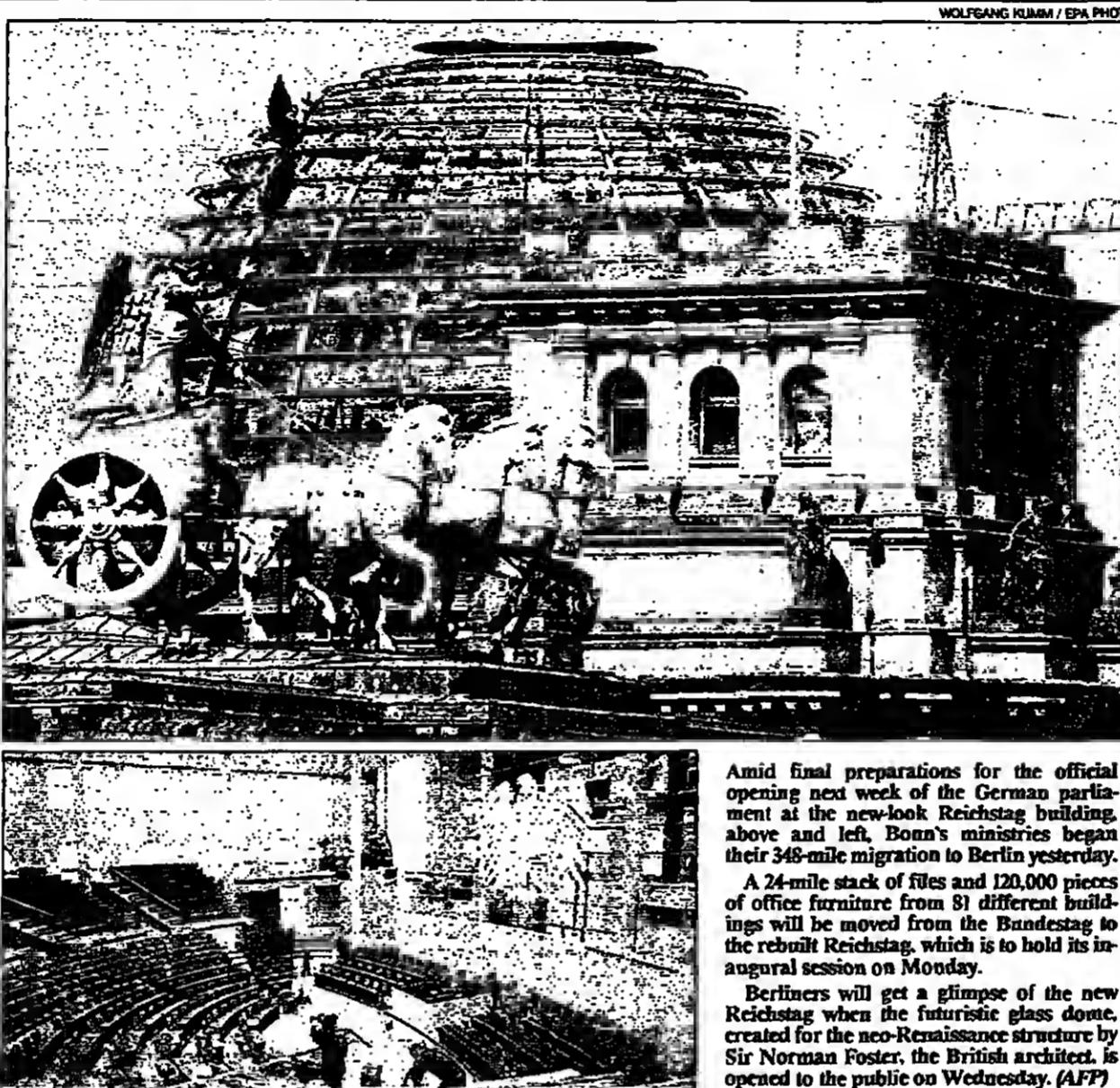
"Law became politics by other means. The impact on public attitudes was unmistakable. The mechanism intended to enhance confidence in law enforcement thus had the effect of weakening it."

He defended his own investigation and the way that it had been expanded from the original Whitewater land deal, in which Mr Clinton was involved back in Arkansas, to the dismissal of White House travel office staff, the collection of confidential FBI files on Republicans and, ultimately, the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

"The number of expansions is unique, and it may have fed the misconception that we were investigating individuals rather than outcomes," he said. "Let me make clear that was not the case." He added: "Independence can be misinterpreted as antagonism."

The law providing for the appointment by the Attorney-General of independent prosecutors was passed in the wake of the scandal that brought down President Nixon.

□ Ruling accepted: President Clinton does not plan to challenge a ruling on Monday by Susan Wright, a federal judge who held him in contempt of court — the first time a President had been so held — for giving misleading statements on his affair with Ms Lewinsky. *The Washington Post* said yesterday. (APF)



## Mutiny among New York's finest

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK'S Police Commissioner, who has overseen a sharp drop in crime with a much-vaunted zero-tolerance policy, faces a mutiny in the ranks for turning the city into a "police state" where people despise men and women in uniform.

The Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (PBA), representing police officers, has cast a unanimous vote of no confidence in Police Commissioner Howard Safir amid rising concern about police misconduct. The union accused him of destroying public trust by pressing officers to pursue aggressive tactics even though crime has fallen to the level of 30 years

ago. Its leaders called for a "go-slow" in issuing summonses for trivial offences such as riding bicycles without bells.

"When zero-tolerance tactics were introduced, crime was at an all-time high," James Savage, the union president, told a meeting of 400 delegates on Tuesday. "Now that crime is way down, an adjustment is required. If we don't strike a balance between aggressive enforcement and common sense, it becomes a blueprint for a police state and tyranny."

Public confidence has plunged after two widely publicised cases of brutality. A Haitian immigrant was sodomised by officers with a lavatory plunger while in custody in Brooklyn. Then, in the Bronx, an un-

armed West African street seller was killed in a fusillade of 41 bullets from four members of the Street Crime Unit.

Mr Safir's conduct has also been called into question since he accepted a free plane trip to last month's Oscars ceremony. He has been criticised for using police officers for as security at his daughter's wedding and for getting detectives to interrogate a driver who crashed into his wife's car. Mr Safir blamed the association vote on politicking for an internal election.

Rudolph Giuliani, New York's Mayor, said: "I appoint the Police Commissioner — not the PBA. My vote of confidence expresses very, very much the sentiment of the people of New York."

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# Pakistani test raises stakes in arms race

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

PAKISTAN'S successful firing of its Ghauri-II missile yesterday, in response to a similar test by India last Sunday, has raised fears in China and elsewhere around the Pacific Rim of a deterioration of security in South Asia.

Beijing, a longtime ally of Pakistan, said after India test-fired its nuclear capable medium-range Agni-II ballistic missile last Sunday that the test could trigger a new round of the regional arms race.

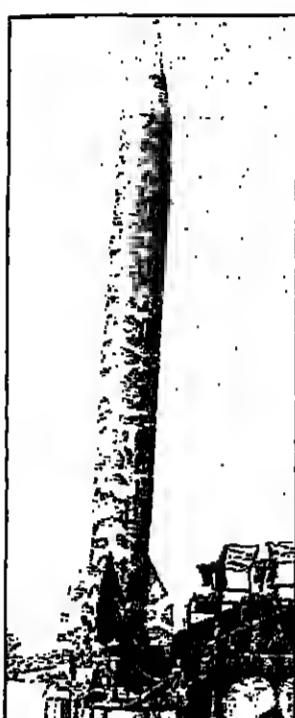
"The Chinese side expresses regret and concern," the Foreign Ministry said.

Speaking at Gwadar, a coastal town close to where the Ghauri-II landed after its 12-minute flight, Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani Prime Minister, said that the missile's range could be extended to 1,440 miles by reducing its payload from the tested 2,200 lb.

Mr Sharif said that the Ghauri-II was fired from near Jhelum, in Punjab province, and hit a target 715 miles away near Jiwani, in Baluchistan province. The weapon's maximum range puts all of India's main cities within the reach of Pakistan's military.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars in the past half century, and have been conducting tit-for-tat nuclear testing. Last May the two nations carried out matching nuclear underground trials that led to punitive economic sanctions.

India ended a five-year peri-



The Ghauri-II at Jhelum before yesterday's test

## Iran launches missile

Tehran: Iran said it had successfully test-fired an advanced anti-aircraft missile named Sayyad-I after Lieutenant-General Ali Sayyad Shirazi, Iran's Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, who was assassinated on Saturday in an attack claimed by an opposition group.

The Defence Ministry said the missile was locally built, but did not give its range. Footage was broadcast of the surface-to-air weapon test, apparently carried out in a remote region.

The missile has been named Sayyad-I after Lieutenant-General Ali Sayyad Shirazi, Iran's Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, who was assassinated on Saturday in an attack claimed by an opposition group. In July Iran test-fired its Shehab-III missile, which has a range of 800 miles, putting Israel within reach. (Reuters)

od of restraint last weekend with the testing of its controversial Agni-II ballistic missile.

The upgraded version of the Agni has a range of about 1,375 miles, enabling it to reach any part of Pakistan and well into China. Delhi regards its missile as a deterrent to nuclear capable China.

In an apparent conciliatory

effort, a deeply-worried Beijing said after the Indian test that there had been a good trend of dialogue and an improvement of mutual understanding emerging between India and Pakistan.

China hopes the two sides can settle the problems through patient, frank and meaningful dialogue, Sun Yuxi, the foreign ministry spokesman, said.

Russia expressed concern at Pakistan's actions. A foreign ministry spokesman said that the test "could lead to the further escalation of a nuclear missile arms race in Asia".

A government announcement in Islamabad said yesterday that the test-firing showed Pakistan's "determination to defend itself, strengthen national security" and to consolidate the strategic balance reached when Pakistan matched Indian nuclear tests last May.

The two nations informed each other in advance of their tests, in keeping with an agreement reached in Lahore in February when Atal Bihari Vajpeyi, India's Prime Minister, and Mr Sharif held border talks to ease tension.

Both sides signed a declaration promising to take steps to prevent a nuclear clash as well as intensifying efforts to settle disputes over Kashmir and other issues.

Islamabad strongly denies reports that the Ghauri-II has links to the missile technology of North Korea or China, and said that the successful flight was the result of Pakistan's technical prowess in the field of missile development.

■ **Cambodia:** Australia announced that it deeply regretted Pakistan's decision to test the Ghauri-II. Alexander Downer, the Foreign Minister, said that the testing would raise tensions in an already unstable region. "A cycle of action and reaction will not help resolve the tense security situation in South Asia," he said. (Reuters)

A LOT OF heave-ho, shouting and doses of morphine and tranquillisers are the answer to the debate over what to do with too many elephants, according to Clem Coetsee, a Zimbabwean game expert.

Instead of mowing them down in bloody culls when overpopulation threatens to destroy their environment, Mr Coetsee knocks them out, loads them on to a pantechnicon and takes them wherever they are wanted. Before he pioneered the technique, no one had tried to move anything bigger than a baby elephant.

Mr Coetsee is a veteran of more than 1,000 captures and can have a bull elephant chewing hay in the back of a pantechnicon 20 minutes after receiving a dart in its backside.

**Jan Raath in Bindura watches one man's alternative to the bloody culling of the African behemoth**

He has moved elephants all over Zimbabwe, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. He has transported them by lorry over three days for 750 miles and is confident he can shift them in an aircraft.

But not just anyone can fire a dart next to an elephant's tail from a vibrating helicopter with pinpoint accuracy, then lug around the equivalent of a five-ton sack of meat and bones — and not only keep it alive, but also pacified.

Mr Coetsee recently moved two 25-year-old bulls that had wandered 100 miles from the Mavuradonha wildlife area in northern Zimbabwe, to the maize fields of the Bindura valley 50 miles north of Harare. When he found them he leaned out of a helicopter with his dart gun and hit each beast with 8mg of etorphine, an opiate 100 times as strong as morphine (a drop in your veins would kill you in 45 seconds) mixed with azaperone, a quick-acting tranquilliser to keep them placid when the anaesthetic wore off.

**Migrant nanny scoops £122m**

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH  
IN WASHINGTON

EVEN Mary Poppins would have retired. A Chilean immigrant who works as a nanny for a Boston millionaire is in a position to buy her employer's home and business from under him and still have change for some silver spoonfuls of sugar after winning the biggest individual lottery prize in American history.

Maria Grasso, 54, is to give up the Pampers for a little light pampering but was not sure exactly what to do yesterday after scooping the \$197 million (£122 million) jackpot in the Massachusetts state Big Game lottery.

She knew she had won after the draw but had chosen to lie low while it sank in.

At a press conference yesterday, still flabbergasted, she said: "I have a large family in Chile. This is a big one. I took a chance and here I am."

Ms Grasso, a mother of two, watched the draw and checked the numbers she had chosen at random and had a restless night alone with her secret. "I couldn't believe it. I couldn't sleep," she said.

The next day she told the wife of her employer, Chris Gabrieli, a self-made millionaire and former Democratic candidate for Congress.

Ms Grasso said she would take the money in one lump sum, rather than in payments extended over 20 years. That reduces the actual jackpot to \$104 million. After taxes Ms Grasso expects to net about \$70 million, her lawyer said.



## Elephant man of Zimbabwe refuses to follow the herd

**Hello petal, this is your carer**

BY ROBERT WHYMANT  
IN TOKYO

HAVE you ever wondered if your yucca enjoys you talking to it? Or how a potted hyacinth feels about being stroked?

If you yearn to find out, a Japanese manufacturer has devised a "unique communication tool between plants and human beings". The Plantone resembles an oversized boiled egg in an egg-cup and emits beeping sounds and flashing lights when it picks up a plant's electrical impulses.

To check the emotional state of an aspidistra, place the battery-powered gadget by the pot, clip two electric leads to a leaf and the stem and earth the third wire in the soil. The Plantone is now ready to read subtle changes in the plant's electric mood and to change them into sound through an electric circuit wired to a small amplifier inside the device.

The stronger the aspidistra's electrical impulses, the louder the beeps. The device flashes a green, yellow or red light, according to the current's strength.

The feedback from a plant reflects the behaviour of the owner, or "carer". Kazuto Mochizuki, of the Tokyo toy firm, Epoch, says: "A plant reacts most cheerfully when a carer strokes its leaves. Rather than just talk, get up close so that it feels your body temperature and breathing. The plant will sense what is going on and respond within ten seconds."

Mr Mochizuki adds that "flowering plants show the strongest emotions".

The company devised the Plantone to profit from the country's present craze for gardening. Amid a prolonged recession, many Japanese are taking up trowels and shears as an alternative to more expensive leisure activities. The Plantone goes on sale in June for 6,390 yen (£35).

Jim McDonald, senior lecturer in plant physiology at the University of Aberdeen, said: "It is quite in order that electrical activity in a plant can be picked up by the Plantone. Potentially any external stimulus to the plant is likely to affect the electrical signal."

"However, exactly what stimulus would result in a large or small output is quite another and, indeed, intriguing matter."

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THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 15 1999

مكتبة من الأصل

LED CHAN/ EPA



Riot police use a water cannon to disperse supporters of Anwar Ibrahim protesting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday

## Riot police quell Anwar protests

BY DAVID WATTS  
ASIA EDITOR

ANWAR IBRAHIM started a six-year jail term yesterday as Malaysia's political drama reached a climax cementing the power of his arch-enemy, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister.

The sentence was more severe than expected and removes Anwar from the political scene for the foreseeable future in spite of his lawyers' determination to appeal. The judge imposed a jail term of six years on each of four counts of corruption to run concurrently. The time already served in detention will not be taken into account.

Even in the unlikely event of a successful appeal, other charges of sexual misconduct and one of corruption are outstanding against the former Deputy Prime Minister, who was once anointed by Dr Mahathir as his successor.

Speaking from the dock, Anwar described the judgment as "an absolute disgrace", accusing his former mentor of plotting against him. "I have been dealt a judgment that stinks to high heaven," he told Judge Augustine Paul. It involved "an interpretation of corruption which is ridiculous, nauseating in fact, when one considers how in Malaysia billions of ringgit of the people's money are being squandered by its leaders to save their children and cronies."

Anwar said: "The conspirators are part of a political conspiracy to destroy me and ensure Dr Mahathir Mohamad continues to hold on to power at whatever cost, even if it means



Anwar waves on arriving to hear judgment yesterday

sacrificing whatever is left of the judiciary's integrity."

The ruling had members of Anwar's family in tears. Outside the court protest erupted and police used water cannon and teargas to drive his supporters from Independence Square.

International condemnation of the verdict was swift. Amnesty International said An-

war would study the case with its European Union partners.

The vicious rivalry between Anwar and Dr Mahathir came to a head over their different prescriptions for managing the country's affairs after the Asian economic meltdown in 1997. Anwar, the darling of the West and the acceptable face of Islam, was pitted against Dr Mahathir, the patriotic defender of developing-country values. The Prime Minister has strong ties with Japan, which would have been unhappy with any increased American influence in its backyard, seen as a likely consequence should the Anwar economic view have triumphed.

Dr Mahathir, 73, Asia's longest ruling leader, is officially suffering from a chest infection, but in a TV appearance last week he seemed to be suffering something more serious. He had a multiple bypass operation ten years ago.

There is scepticism about the political potential of Wan Azizah, Anwar's wife, who has launched a political party to campaign for justice. "Today marks the day when Azizah starts off on her own," said one political observer. "If Mahathir keeps him there long enough he will be neutralised. In eight years [Anwar will not be allowed to run for public office for two years after completion of his sentence], who will remember him?"

□ Trial proposed: A Royal Commission has recommended that Abdul Rahim Noor, Malaysia's former police chief, be charged with beating Anwar while in custody. (AFP)

Leading article, page 23

## French boss lands in court for hard work

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

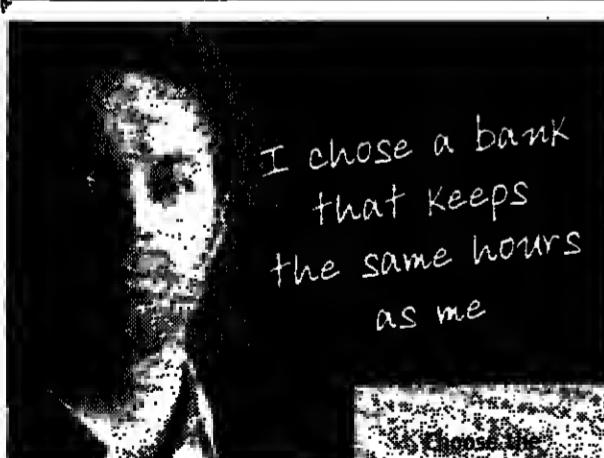
THE trial of a senior executive of a leading French company on 6,000 counts of overworking executives to work overtime, has opened in Versailles.

In the test case, the first of its kind in France, will force a decision on how the country's complex and sometimes Kafkaesque labour laws are to be applied when executives voluntarily work long hours to do their jobs properly.

The case is also seen as an indication of the Government's determination to make companies comply with its sweeping plans to create jobs by forcing companies to implement a 35-hour working week.

Trade union leaders say that is 60,000 hours worked illegally. M. Rocquemont could face up to a year in prison and a FFr100,000 (£10,000) fine if convicted.

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**Dr Thomas Stuttaford** reports on Binswanger's disease and the 'Mardi Gras' bomber; how a marathon runner controls diabetes; multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease; the fashion for power-napping

## Crazy for a drink

**C**ould the fact that blackmailing bomber Edgar Pearce signed his extortion notes to Barclays and Sainsbury's "Mardi Gras" instead of the correct Mardi Gras be an indication of his developing dementia?

Lawyers acting for Pearce, sentenced to 21 years in jail, claimed that he was suffering from Binswanger's disease, a claim dismissed by Judge Michael Hyams, the Recorder of London, who suggested that his mental condition was no different from that of anyone else of Pearce's age (he is 67) who has a history of excessive alcohol consumption.

Mendon of Binswanger's disease must have disconcerted the prosecution's medical advisers. They needn't have worried: medical opinion is not convinced that Binswanger's disease is a separate entity.

Elderly patients with diseased cerebral blood vessels may suffer dementia, usually as a result of many small strokes, either because of a bleed, or because a small cerebral artery has been blocked by a clot. After the vascular dis-

aster, the surrounding brain tissue becomes infarcted. An infarct is a piece of tissue destroyed as a result of deprivation of blood.

Multi-infarct dementia accounts for 15 per cent of cases of dementia. Whereas in Alzheimer's, or Lewy Body dementia, the decline in intellectual ability tends to be insidious and continuous, in vascular dementia the onset of symptoms is abrupt, and the deterioration comes stepwise. Patients maintain their status quo for some time before their mental state suddenly worsens again. Frequently the patient is unaware of the small strokes, but family and friends usually notice the deterioration.

When other dementias and multi-infarct dementia co-exist, a patient is said to be suffering from "mixed dementia".

It is important to distinguish the various forms of dementia since, in vascular dementia, there is usually some underlying reason for the trouble, such as high blood pressure, coronary, carotid or peripheral arterial disease.

Patients might also be suffering from another form of heart disease, have too much low-density cholesterol in their blood or have diabetes. Many of these conditions should be treated, in which case the patient's mental deterioration may be slowed down or even halted.

Diagnosis of multi-infarct syndrome is usually made after an assessment of a patient's symptoms. Because they have suffered small strokes, there are often changes that can be demonstrated on clinical examination and which may later be confirmed by CT and MRI scans, X-rays of the cerebral arteries or, increasingly, MRA, in which

magnetic resonance is used to scan cerebral arteries.

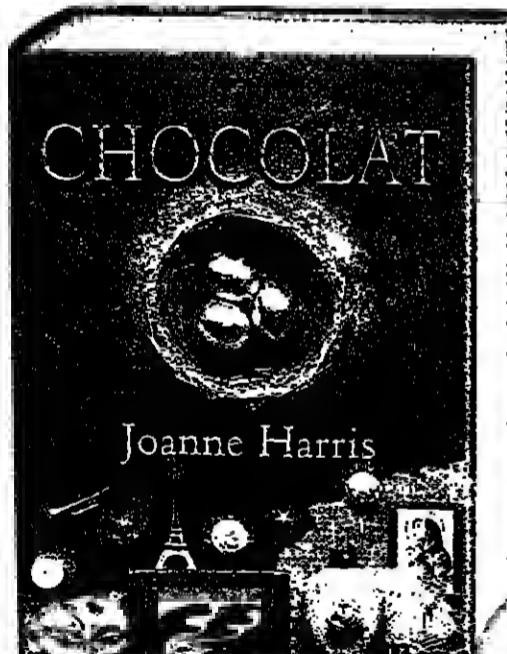
Those who like to distinguish Binswanger's dementia from other forms of multi-infarct syndrome use the term to describe changes from small strokes in the sub-cortical area of the brain. These multi-infarcts are also associated with a markedly raised blood pressure and evidence of disease of the peripheral arteries. The neurological evidence of the individual strokes causing Binswanger's dementia is said to be more obvious than in other multi-infarcts and the downhill course more rapid.

Some may worry about Pearce's Recorder's comments on the mental state of near-septuagenarians who drink. Unfortunately he is right if the drinking has been excessive and, in particular, if the person binge-drinks. This is associated with an increased incidence of multi-infarcts and small strokes (sometimes even large strokes). Regular moderate drinking, on the other hand, is associated with a reduction of ischaemic strokes from small clots, the most common type of stroke. Surprisingly, drinking alcohol makes Alzheimer's less likely.

Flat out: unlike the Himalayan runners, these competitors in the London Marathon encounter less challenging terrain



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**It's good to have a catnap**

SLEEP is for wimps, so it is thought in the business world, politics and the Services, and competitive types can operate on five hours a night and still command their companies, regiments or, in Margaret Thatcher's case, the country.

Yvonne Harrison, from the Loughborough Sleep Research Laboratory, gives warning in her book, *Sleep Talking: Science, Needs & Misconceptions*, that those of us who try to emulate them may suffer from accumulated sleep loss, particularly before a key event. If big decisions are taken when most of the world is asleep, or if there is accumulated sleep loss — not quite enough each night — performance is impaired, details overlooked, complex situations underestimated and wrong decisions made.

One solution is the Napoleonic nap. Napoleon shunned long hours in bed in favour of brief naps of between 10 and 15 minutes. Once it was thought that this was a slothful habit for those who lunched too well, but now these rests are fashionable. Sleep experts agree that naps control sleepiness and refresh those parts that are beyond the reach of caffeine. And instead of the label "fairy winks", this habit is now called "power napping" and is part of the sleep patterns of the great and the good.

Whereas power naps may be permissible for the general or the chairman, there is, however, no certainty that a somnolent soldier or factory worker will qualify for a quick kip.

• *Sleep Talking: Science, Needs & Misconceptions*, Yvonne Harrison, Blandford, £12.99

## Coping with the cruellest of diseases

AS THE frost strips spring blossom from the trees, it is easy to see why T.S. Eliot described April as "the cruellest month". Whether or not his observation is usually correct, two of the cruellest neurological diseases have been assigned "weeks" this month.

The Parkinson's Disease Society, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, has designated this week as Parkinson's Awareness Week, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society has nominated next week as the MS Week for national awareness and fund-raising.

The message of the Parkinson's Disease Society is straightforward. People with Parkinson's often have a blank face, are slow to smile and to talk, and very easily fall behind in a conversation; this doesn't indicate stupidity, but merely shows that they are suffering from the disease. Many patients may live many years and enjoy a good lifestyle, provided they receive appropriate drug treatment, other necessary therapy, and have friends and relatives who understand the reason for their demeanour.

The Multiple Sclerosis Society is chaired by Sarah Phillips, the first national chairman of the society to have the disease, and the first woman to hold this contested post. Her condition was diagnosed in 1981, when she was in Washington with her husband, who was then in the World Bank. In her early married life she was a linguist, a professional LTA tennis coach and a keen golfer. After developing MS the tennis and golf had to be abandoned, but she went back to college and trained to be a remedial tutor.

She has worked in the clothes industry and in floristry; many of the flowers were grown in her own garden. She

sings in a chamber choir which performs in East Anglia and France. On meeting her now, it is hard to imagine the difficult transient medical problems that she has had to overcome during the protracted course of her illness.

People with multiple sclerosis often receive the compliment "You look so well — no one would know you had multiple sclerosis" with mixed feelings. Even when they are on good form, patients may suffer eye or bladder symptoms and also experience a leaden tiredness which is quite a different league from weariness following a few late nights.

Carole Mackie is another person with multiple sclerosis who continues to take life at a gallop. Carole's book *Me and My Shadow, Learning to Live with Multiple Sclerosis*, Aurum Press, £14.99

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FEATURES 21

31

# Wonderful them



At last, a TV show has treated reaching 30 as though it's not the end of life, says Tina Gaudoin

**G**o on, admit it, you feel sorry for us don't you? The whiny "done it all, have it all, seen it all" thirtysomething generation, filled with angst over life decisions, career decisions and whether or not to spend £180 on those new Prada trainers.

We live in "nice" houses, drive "nice" cars and hang out with "nice" people. The only thing missing from our lives is fun. Coke (of either persuasion) doesn't cut it, illicit affairs don't work, new babies offer momentary respite before depression sets in, the endorphins released while working-out aren't worth the bother, and shopping... well, we all know about the long-term effects of retail therapy.

Of course, none of the above has much basis in fact; but if you've ever watched *Thirtysomething*, *Cold Feet*, *Amy McBeal*, *Sex in the City*, or read *Bridget Jones's Diary*, you could be forgiven for thinking that us thirtysomethings are a deeply tragic lot.

Thank god, then, for *Wonderful You*, the first seriously grown-up drama that made reaching thirty look like an achievement rather than the end of the line. *Wonderful You*, which reached its final episode on Tuesday night, is scripted by the actor-writer Richard Lumsden (who plays the lead as bicycle-courier songwriter Henry) and Chris Neel. It has had us thirtysomethings, not to mention a significant sector of the rest of the viewing public gripped.

All right then, I'll admit some of the attraction among us females has been Marshall — Greg "sex on a stick" Wise (whod have thought a "number 2 cut" would have affected such a transformation?) — and the gorgeous Marco (Dorian Healy), both of whom play characters from opposite



Top toto for both sexes on *Wonderful You*: Richard Lumsden (Henry), Lucy Akhurst (Clare) and Greg Wise (Marshall)

ends of the social spectrum coming to terms with their lives. But what kept most of us switching on our sets week after week was the fact that the characters in *Wonderful You* actually look as though they are having fun while dealing with some pretty messy and difficult decisions. Turning thirty, in *Wonderful You's* terms, doesn't automatically

mean your life is over; it also doesn't necessitate a sense of humour bypass.

The premise wasn't new — a set of friends making monumental life-choices (see *The Big Chill* for starters). Would Marshall marry Clare (Lucy Akhurst), or would Henry (who had a crush on Clare since college) win her heart? Would Henry's best friend Heather end up on the shelf, or does she secretly fancy Marco (the chef in the bar she runs), who is in turn breaking up with his wife Gina (Anna Wilson-Jones). And what would Henry and Gina's grandfather make of it all? (they are brother and sister).

If you're thinking this all sounds incestuous, consider the reality.

Richard Lumsden is married to Emma Thompson's sister Sophie. Wise, you don't need to be told, is living with "our Em"; "our Em's" mum, the fabulous Phyllida Law, plays Clare's mum. And, of course, they all live in the same road in West Hampstead. As if that weren't enough, the female leads Miranda, Plessence, Lucy Akhurst, Anna Wilson-Jones and Rowena King all actually live within minutes of each other in West London's Queen's Park.

At first glance the venue for the drama looked a bit dodgy. Crouch End, otherwise known as "Crouch End" by us North London purists, is a higgledy-piggledy mass of late-Victorian houses perched on the side of a hill overlooked by Alexandra Palace. All very new, new Labour, but somewhat unpossessing. As the series progressed, Crouch End's chic crept increased to the extent that property prices were being discussed at dinner-parties and pilgrimages made to see what all the fuss was about.

Of course, us thirtysomethings are far too cool to imagine that the bar in which much of the action unfolds — the Blue Sky Bar — is a real place (unlike *Friends* fans, who apparently trawl the streets of Manhattan, looking for Central Perk), but it has to be said that, should there be a second series, more than a few males I know will be loitering at Crouch End's bus stops in the vain hope of catching a glimpse of Clare and Heather.

Aside from proffering top toto for both sexes (there was

also a PC homosexual relationship thrown in for good measure), *Wonderful You* offered a plethora of bang-on thirtysomething scenarios. Dastardly, ruthless Marshall comes over all vulnerable and makes the cardinal mistake of admitting to Clare that he slept with someone else during their break-up (at which point the two men I was watching with hid their eyes and shrieked "No! No! No!"). Henry starts his evening by grooving semi-naked around his flat, choosing his perfect pair of Calvin Klein boxers in confident anticipation of a "pull", but ends the night in a pit of despair after learning that Clare is to marry someone else; Heather

empty, save for one old man.

So, at long last, life doesn't end at thirty — at least as far as my peers and the characters in *Wonderful You* are concerned. Sure, our lives are made

more complicated by careers, relationships and commitment, but they're not any less fun. But thirty is an uncomfortable benchmark. Increasingly, for those of us who postpone marriage and children for the sake of careers, it signals the end of our youth. After Clare has suffered a debauched hen night which has included smoking dope, drinking vast quantities of wine and ogling a male stripper, she takes a pregnancy test which shows positive. Heather asks her how she feels. "All grown-up," she says sorrowfully. The greatest irony of *Wonderful You*, of course, is that it has such a huge "like-minded" fan base. If there are millions of us thirtysomethings out there living dynamic and exciting lives, just why haven't we had anything better to do on Tuesday nights at 10pm?

Once you're thirty you don't necessarily stop listening to music, or having sex

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## Death of the book or a novel way to read?

The hand-held electronic book can carry ten novels in one device. But it is no threat to the real thing, says Tim Geary

**A** century ago, George Gissing wrote: "I know any book of mine by its smell, and I have but to put my nose between the pages to be reminded of all sorts of things." What then, would he make of the Rocket eBook, one of the new electronic books now making its way onto the American market and soon to arrive in Britain?

There is no denying that the Rocket eBook feels like the future. The size of a paperback and made from a sleek, grey plastic, the electronic "book" is a portable hand-held device that allows you to read text and pictures on a screen instead of off the page. It is light (22 oz) and easy to hold — the curved spine is supposed to feel like a paperback with its pages rolled back.

It is also easy to use: on the side of the 4½ by 3in screen there are two buttons for scrolling up and down the pages. There is also a touch-sensitive screen which can be used to call up a dictionary if needed, increase the font size, even to add notes in the margin. It can store up to 4,000 pages, roughly the equivalent of ten novels. And without use of its bright backlight, the battery lasts for 33 hours.

The idea of the eBook is attractive: imagine leaving for holiday without six novels, a guidebook and a dictionary weighing you down. All you have to carry is a lightweight eBook. The new technology also makes sense for anyone unable to get to a bookshop — to buy electronic books, you simply need access to the Internet. The electronic book can be downloaded for the same price as a book in a shop, first on to the hard drive of your computer and then into the Rocket eBook for immediate reading. It all takes a couple of minutes and there are plans to place download terminals in bookstores and airports, enabling those away from, or without, a computer to make direct purchases. Once they have been bought, the electronic titles can be stored in personal computer "libraries".

And the appeal of electronic books will grow as the technology improves. Already a company named Ebook Inc. has developed a "reader" that is based on the shape and form of a leather-bound book but with two 12-in colour screens instead of pages. But this technology does not come cheap: the "reader" costs \$1,500 (£930), and the Rocket eBook is \$499 (£311), although the price will eventually come down.

So will readers be willing to give up page for the screen? John Schlein, from the New York offices of publishers Penguin-Putnam, thinks so — partly because the eBook is so compact. He enjoys the fact that he can hold the eBook with one hand and read it on the subway. He is convinced that a generation of kids accustomed to computer screens will prefer this technology to the paper books. It will also be a useful tool for keeping reference manuals updated or for reading newspapers and magazines. But there remain plenty of physical and psychological obstacles to eBook's success. For a start, few people enjoy

reading from a screen: it feels too much like hard work (even though with 105 dots per inch as opposed to the 72 dots per inch on most computer screens, the eBook is easy to read). And so far there is only a limited selection of electronic books being published.

While there are plenty of business tomes, mystery and crime novels, and classics, there is little new fiction and non-fiction to entice the buyer (although NuvoMedia, Inc. recently made publishing history by providing an electronic edition of *Monica's Story* on the same day it came out in print). The problem is that publishers are reluctant to go down the eBook route because it will be difficult to control: for instance, it will be possible for British readers to purchase the electronic versions of books only published in America. Consumers may not wait for the book to come to a store near them when they can download it months earlier using a telephone line. Where does that leave the British publisher who has paid for the rights to publish and sell that American book in England?

But the greatest hurdle the eBook faces is that it has neither the romance nor the allure of a traditional book. There are no sassy colours on its cover, no roughly-hewn pages, and there's certainly no hint of the earthy scent of good paper. Who would swap those pleasures for a portable screen? And who wants to lie in a hammock on the beach holding the hard plastic of the Rocket eBook? I like to drop my book into the sand or toss it aside. Do that to the Rocket eBook and it will break.

Also, the device starts feeling heavy after 20 minutes or so. Worse, I often lost my place, both actually and imaginatively, while scrolling down pages. Nor did I like having no sense of where I was in the book. It is hard to skip ahead in an electronic book to see where the chapter ends, or to look back to remind yourself of who a character is. Perhaps such complaints will seem like nonsense in years to come, but electronic books need to feel a lot more like the real thing for that to happen. Yet lovers of the paper-bound book should not despair. What seems most likely is that electronic books will co-exist with the traditional form. As Eric Simonoff, of the literary agency representing authors such as Tom Wolfe and Michael Crichton, points out: "There is a function the publisher serves in each market that is greater than disseminating the work and drawing attention to the work."

In other words, publishers will continue to publish books that look good on shelves and tables. And people will want to display those books, not merely as items that warm any house, but as proof of the reader's learning and intelligence. As soon as the Rocket eBook is switched off, there is no way of showing others that you had been reading Proust.

• Shouting at the Shipmen by Tim Geary, is published by Victor Gollancz at £16.99.



Old tech: the joy of reading a book

The big obstacle is that it has none of the allure of a book

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# Seconds out for chaos at the ballot box

Voters in Scotland and Wales will need their wits about them

"Oh God," said Lord Steel of Aikwood. "Don't ask me to explain it. It's far too complicated." Thus the former leader of the Liberal Democrats on being questioned about the intricacies of proportional representation (which has been his party's flagship policy for as long as anyone can remember.)

He was joking of course. At least I think he was. But he spoke for most of the electorate in Scotland and Wales as it begins, reluctantly, to grapple with a voting system that has not yet been tried in mainland Britain. For those passionate adherents of electoral reform, who attack our first-past-the-post system as inherently unfair, history will be made next month. However, all the signs suggest that those who will use it remain baffled.

For weeks now, government advertisements have been patiently explaining how parliamentary candidates in Wales and Scotland are to be elected on May 6. There will be two ballot papers and everyone will be asked to vote twice — once for a constituency MP and once for a party or independent candidate on one of the regional lists. It is this second vote which is "proportional" and is intended to secure a more balanced representation of the parties. That much is straightforward. But if you want to understand what effect your second vote will have, and how it will translate into the number of MPs your party muster, then you may have to return to a darkened room with a wet towel around your feverish brow. "You don't have to be a maths genius to vote, but it helps," ran a recent newspaper headline.

Since readers of *The Times* relish an intellectual challenge, I will simply explain that on the second, or regional, ballot, the number of votes cast for each party is divided by the number of constituency seats gained — plus one. After that, the party with the highest resulting figure gains the first additional seat. In Glasgow, for example, where Labour won all ten seats in 1997, their number of votes would have to be divided by 11, whereas the other parties' votes would be divided by only one. To allocate the remaining seats, the exercise is redone, but each time an additional seat is gained is included in the calculation until the total number of MPs is reached. I trust that is clear.

The voter, of course, has no need to work all this out. Understanding the mathematics of PR is no more important in West Lothian than it is in Wessphalia, where they have been using it for years. But it does help to know what impact the second vote will have and whether it will help to elect the people you want in power. Its intention is to achieve a fairer balance between the parties and, not surprisingly, most of those canvassed about their voting intentions say that they intend to use it as a "second choice".

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, finds that deeply alarming. He recounts how he keeps being told: "Aye, you've got my first vote all right, but

I'm thinking of giving the other chap a chance with the second." Horrified, he protests that Labour needs all the votes it can get — on the first and second ballot. If it loses support on the party list, seats could be handed to the Scottish National Party. "Don't waste that second vote," is the earnest message from Labour.

The fact is, however, that in large areas of urban Scotland, a second vote for Labour may indeed be wasted. In the big regions of Glasgow in the West, and Lothian in the East, where Labour is likely to win an almost full hand of constituency seats, a second vote will not secure a single extra Labour MP. The Additional Member System ensures that parties which have won very few or no constituencies stand a far better chance of picking up the list seats. Thus, the temptation to spread your bet on the second vote, perhaps to keep out the SNP, or to boost the chances of the Lib Dems or Tories, becomes not only irresistible but even principled.

It is a real irony that the Scottish Office adverts — which have been interpreted suspiciously by some as a cover to boost the Labour vote — will actually encourage the reverse: "cross-voting" could be the only way of making the second vote count. In New Zealand, where a similar system was recently introduced, 38 per cent of voters used the second ballot in this way. The more the electorate understood the system, the more voters exploited it.

In Glasgow Govan last weekend I found the enterprising Liberal Democrat candidate, Mohammed Aslam Khan, spending all his canvassing time explaining the voting system rather than selling his party's policies. He is focusing on the 6,000 or so Asian voters in the belief that it is their best way of ensuring an Asian representative — ie, himself — in the new parliament. On the other hand, his Conservative rival, Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh, a Pakistani television and film star, is angling for much the same support.

Since neither has a chance of winning on the first vote, it all comes down to the party lists. But it took one psephologist of my acquaintance some ten minutes of detailed research to work out who stood the best chance. In the end he could only conclude that it "could go either way".

The opinion polls suggest that no single party will have an overall majority in Scotland. That changes the whole climate in which the election will take place. It could mean a seat for parties like the Greens, who have never been represented nationally before. It will ensure the return of the Conservatives, who were wiped out last time around. And for the tactical voter, the system will require a crash course in Higher maths.

I suggest that if the excitable Mr Peter Snow is covering the election for the BBC on polling day, the paramedics should be standing by.

*comment@the-times.co.uk*



## Clark of words

ALAN CLARK is taking steps to ensure he remains a one-off. The magnificent Conservative MP is attempting to register his name as a trademark with the European Union. He began registering his name before he successfully took a local newspaper in London to court to prevent it from publishing the *Not Alan Clark's Diary* column, its spoof of his own chronicle.

But Clark will have to wait until mid-June before he finds out if the EU will prevent such imitations. Until then, any other Alan Clark who feels that the owner of Saltwood Castle should not enjoy exclusive rights to the use of the name can lodge a formal appeal.

There is, of course, my old friend, the Right Rev Alan Clark, the erstwhile Bishop of East Anglia, and Alan Clark, formerly of HM Diplomatic Service. "If Mr Clark encroaches on my right to use my name, I would be very cross," the latter tells me. "It's not as if he's Elvis Presley. There are tens of thousands of Alan Clarks."

SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC has gone ex-directory. The Serbian leader's sole namesake in Britain, a resident of Ilford, Essex, has removed his name from the telephone book after wearying of mousing phone calls.



DOWN BUT NOT OUT

■ THE Cold War remains alive for Ann Widdecombe. Touring Africa with a film crew for a report on debt, to be broadcast on tonight's *Channel 4 News*, the Shadow Health spokeswoman (above) dropped in on a Roman Catholic mission in Zambia. In a scene that ended up on the cutting-room floor, one of the crew told Widdecombe she was "off to see the rushes". "The Russians?" she yelled. "Why would you want to see Russians?"

RIVALLING Kofi Annan's peace efforts, the Natural Law Party is sending 7,000 of its yogic flyers to Dubrovnik for the weekend to send "waves of bliss" across the troubled region.

■ IN THEIR first test of nadonhood, the Welsh are struggling to organise an international rugby competition in Cardiff. Organisers of the Rugby World Cup are so worried that the city's Millennium Stadium will still be covered in scaffolding when they host the event in October that they have booked Wembley as a substitute.

DURING her visit to Morocco earlier this month, Hillary Clinton disappeared into a Bedouin tent in the desert for a couple of days to reconnect with her spiritual self. I am unable to confirm reports that she was joined by Eleanor Roosevelt.



ATOMIC WITH

■ COULD the Dean of Westminster Abbey's decision to exclude the Bach Choir from Ted Hughes' memorial service have anything to do with the recent unpleasantness there? If you recall, the Prince of Wales had suggested to West Carr that the singers, who include the Duchess of Kent, perform at next month's ceremony after the choir's patron, Leopold de Rothschild, offered its voices for free.

Carr has declined to explain why he turned down the offer. But I suspect it might have something to do with one of the choir's second sopranos, Penny Neary. She is the wife of Martin Neary, Westminster Abbey's former organist who was sacked by the Dean for alleged financial irregularities.

HOUSEHOLDERS in Kensington are to benefit from a new breed of night watchmen: roadsweepers. The Royal Borough's fines are to be trained by the police to spot suspected burglars as the cleaners clear the gutters and empty bins.

EDWARD WELSH

## 'The war against the Serbs is about projecting a self-image of the ethical new Britain bestriding the world. It is a crusade'

Mick Hume

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, can denounce "Mr Milosevic's fascism", but he cannot pronounce him. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, seems to think that Kosovo is being ravaged by President Milosevic's "Siberian forces". Mr Cook has also assured us that he "knows" that the Serbs executed 20 Albanian teachers in front of their pupils in Goden. What he does not appear to know is that Goden is a village with just 300 inhabitants — yet, it seems, with a teacher/pupil ratio beyond even the fantasies of the NUT conference fringe.

The Balkans may no longer seem so faraway, but these are still countries of which our Government knows little and cares less. So what did Tony Blair mean when he told Parliament that the war is being fought "for a moral purpose as much as a strategic interest"? What moral

purpose moved Mr Blair to become the first Labour Prime Minister to lead Britain into a major international war, involving democratic socialist airstrikes on passenger trains, TV transmitters and homes?

The war's moral purpose clearly has little to do with the welfare of the region's peoples. Kosovo's Albanians are a hapless army of televisual victims whose suffering provides a convenient pretext for war. Nato contemptuously bombed their towns and cities. Then, when the airstrikes precipitated a predictable humanitarian crisis, the shocked West rushed in news crews to capture the refugees' tears — "say 'rape camp' for the cameras".

The true position that the Kosovo Albanians hold in Britain's official affections is best revealed by the magical transformation these people undergo when the lucky few step off the

ferry at Dover. Under the terms of new Labour's asylum laws, it's goodbye refugees from hell, hello dirty scrapping gypsies.

The "moral purpose" of Mr Blair's war is not to be found in the Balkans, but at home. As ever, foreign policy is an extension of domestic politics. The war against the Serbs is primarily about giving Mr Blair's Government an aura of moral authority and a sense of mission. It is about projecting a self-image of the ethical new Britain bestriding the world. It is a crusade.

Like their medieval predecessors, new Labour's crusaders seem almost entirely ignorant of who they are off to fight and why. It is a case of "insert appropriate enemy here": be it President Saddam Hussein or Slobodan Milosevic. All that matters is to

find a suitably ugly infidel against whom to prove their own righteousness. Since the Government finds it difficult to forge a moral consensus in Britain on everything from genetic engineering to roadbuilding, it eagerly seizes opportunities to lay down the law about what is Right and Wrong on the world stage.

This is what Mr Blair meant when he announced that the war against the Serbs is "no longer just a military conflict. It is a battle between Good and Evil; between civilisation and barbarity". Implicit in this statement is that, as a counterpart to the Evil Mr Milosevic, Mr Blair is a force for Good in Britain and around the world. New Labour has appointed itself saviour of civil-

sation, on a noble mission to re-educate the barbarians.

The self-image of new Britain which Mr Blair's crusade seeks to endorse is captured by touching pictures of British Army officers bottlefeeding Albanian babies and brushing the hair of young refugee girls separated from their parents. This is a nanny state with a difference, claiming the right to act in loco parentis for all those it deems deserving. Armed with a brick of moral superiority in her handbag, Clare Short, the International Development Minister, can bully Macedonian border officials about not acting like civilised Europeans. And behind her, an army of radical activists, actors, journalists and others in search of a cause with which to make themselves feel better, have signed on for new Labour's righteous war.

As a new crusade, Mr Blair's

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## STRAW'S LIST

### The Government should come clean on Pinochet

Jack Straw will imminently announce whether he will authorise the extradition of General Pinochet that has been requested by a Spanish judge. According to our report today, however, it now appears that a significant push to prosecute the former Head of State is coming from Mr Straw's own Crown Prosecution Service and not just Judge Baltasar Garzon in Spain. On the day following the House of Lords' judgement which reduced the extraditable charges against the General from 31 to 3, the Crown Prosecution Service asked Judge Garzon to provide information to support further charges against him. This request resulted in an additional 33 charges being raised against Pinochet. The British Government is, therefore, not just acting as an agent for Spain, as it claims to be doing, but is actually pursuing the General on its own account — which it has not admitted.

The Crown Prosecution Service's letter to Judge Garzon made it quite clear that it wanted to re-build the case against General Pinochet. It states that "we urgently need precise particulars of torture cases" and "the number of people involved and the methods of torture that were used". It explains that it needs this information in order "to be able to demonstrate that these people were actually tortured", and that "this material will help strengthen the case of Conspiracy to Torture and provide a basis for other charges."

This active pursuit of evidence against General Pinochet sharply conflicts with the Government's pretence to political neutrality. In order for a magistrate to grant an extradition order for General Pinochet, he needs to be certain only that the prisoner before him is the General and that the offences charged are extraditable. Those original three offences would have done the trick by themselves. The British Government did not therefore need any further evidence in order simply to comply with

the extradition agreement. Nor does the Government need any further evidence if it is happy to release General Pinochet.

Even though any single act of torture, if proven, is an appalling offence, Mr Straw is not obliged to authorise the General's extradition. He could decide that General Pinochet is simply too old or ill, or that — as the case has been significantly weakened by the reduction of the number of charges to just three — extradition should not proceed. The General would return to Chile, and face the charges awaiting him there.

There are two possible explanations for the Government's enthusiasm for further evidence against General Pinochet. The first is that Mr Straw wanted to play an active role in building up the list of charges against him. Under Article 13 of the European Convention on Extradition of 1957, untried further charges can be added to an outstanding extradition warrant. If, therefore, the demands of foreign policy or other forces require the Home Secretary to release his prisoner on ostensibly compassionate grounds at the last minute, then at least he will have played his part in discrediting the General.

The Home Secretary may simply be lengthening the list of charges to improve the odds of a conviction. As so few charges remained, it was possible that none would survive the rigours of cross-examination. Whether Mr Straw and his Cabinet colleagues want to see the General imprisoned or simply substantiate an expected decision to authorise extradition, a long list of charges will help.

This has already been an unnecessarily long and complex affair. Whatever the precise reason for the Crown Prosecution Service's request for more evidence against General Pinochet, surely it is time that Mr Straw laid his cards on the table and admitted that this Government would like to see him face trial.

## DOWN BUT NOT OUT

### Malaysians may snatch victory from the jaws of legal defeat

History teems with instances of truth and justice put down by persecution; the modern world witnessed one yesterday. Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia's charismatic ex-deputy premier and finance minister, was convicted on trumped-up corruption charges nearly eight months after being fired by veteran Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. The trial, after which the reformist Anwar was sentenced to six years in jail, was ostensibly hearing four charges that he abused power to cover up allegations of illegal homosexual encounters. But the conduct of the hearing — during which the defendant was beaten up, his lawyer charged with contempt, the charges altered when prosecution witnesses admitted they had been coerced into making false accusations, and defence testimonies ruled irrelevant — lent weight to Anwar's claim that he was the victim of a government conspiracy. The real issue in the Kuala Lumpur courtroom was the erosion of freedom: Malaysian justice, it emerges from the five-month hearing, is now both blind and handcuffed.

The verdict brings one short-term political benefit to Dr Mahathir, in power for nearly 18 years. It rids him of a potent rival for power in elections due in the next year. Anwar will appeal against a sentence which he says "stinks to high heaven". But even one year of prison will bar him from seeking office for five years after release.

The Malaysian Prime Minister's visible manipulation of justice to suit his repressive political ends has, however, served him ill even in the short term. It has earned him the opprobrium of the international community, strained relations with neigh-

bours states and provoked criticism from human rights groups. At home, it has awakened dormant discontent of a society already struggling after last year's Asian economic upheaval. The young, the sophisticated and the intellectually unfettered — Anwar's constituency — are slipping beyond the reach of government censorship by discussing the need for reform on the Internet. The Government's attempt to use sexual smears against Anwar has brought the country's Malay Muslim majority, the backbone of Dr Mahathir's ruling UMNO party, closer to the popular Anwar. Riots and street rallies greeted his sacking and arrest last September. Yesterday's verdict and sentencing were marked by more street battles.

A new force is emerging in Malaysia, as a result of opposition to the very trial that was intended to stifle its birth. Anwar's wife, Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, has become the focus for demands for democratic reform. She plans to head the newly-formed National Justice Party in seeking a change of government. The party, the most genuinely cross-cultural movement to take shape in Malaysia's landscape of traditional communal politics, blends Malays, Islamists and secular ethnic Chinese; with time, it hopes to transform the country's race-based politics into a mature democracy. Even if Anwar is incarcerated in prison, and even if enthusiasm for reform does not translate into votes in the next elections, opposition leaders say that they, unlike the 73-year-old Dr Mahathir, can afford to take the long view. Justice, with the support of the young, may yet have the last laugh.

## A TOMB WITH A VIEW

### A Roman sarcophagus with a tale to tell

As any child probing the parcels under the Christmas tree knows, expectation is just as thrilling as revelation. The locked door, the fastened chest, the sealed letter, all send shivers of suspense up the spine. Mysteries tantalise. Thus did the hearts of archaeologists begin to beat last month when a Roman sarcophagus, an elaborate lead coffin encased inside, was discovered in Spitalfields in east London. The plot was set and a great British historical detective story was about to start.

Almost 150 years have passed since a similar Roman coffin was unearthed, the Minories Sarcophagus, now on display in the British Museum. Although this funerary case with its central medallion and iron brackets was in some ways more ornate than the new Spitalfields find, it was not unearthed in an archaeological investigation. Few details of its context were recorded.

This is where the Museum of London's coffin becomes so important. Accompanying artefacts of a type never before retrieved from Roman Britain have been found: a glass vial and jet canister, along, intriguingly, with a spindle whorl. These are the sort of clues from which the identity of the dead person will be pieced together. The tomb is probably that of a wealthy woman. The value of the grave goods — probably personal possessions — point to

expensive craftsmanship. This grave contrasts strikingly with those unearthed nearby by the Roman Britons buried only in wooden cases and shrouds.

Last night, as the lead coffin was carefully prised open, historians stood reverently, nerves overwrought. In one sense this was already a tiny crux point of time, when the past, soaring out across the centuries, brushed the mind of the present with the tips of its wings. But what was revealed was only the beginning of future research. Modern scientific instruments and methods probe historical relics in unprecedented ways. X-rays, CAT-scans and DNA tests of Egyptian mummies, for example, have revealed biological data about diet, health, life expectancy and disease of people who walked the Earth some 3,000 years ago.

Just as importantly, death and the customs that surround it lay bare the human mind. Fears expose societies' nerves. Funerary monuments reveal, perhaps more clearly than anything, the hopes and beliefs of the people they serve. From the sensational discovery of the Museum of London's Roman sarcophagus, modern Britons will not just learn a few more facts about the people who once colonised this country, laying the foundations of the present day world. They may also find more of those emotional links through

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Allied 'mistakes' in the Balkans

From Mr Frederick Forsyth

Sir, There are no military analysis left who do not concede, sometimes only privately, that Operation Kosovar is the worst-planned military adventure this country has been involved with since Suez. Only the provable and laudable fact that it stemmed from humanitarian rather than imperialist motives saves it from complete derision.

That said, it is clearly riven from top to bottom by incompetent political interference for which Messrs Clinton and Blair must bear the responsibility. It has long emerged as a one-option gamble: that Mr Milosevic will, in fairly short order, capitulate to all demands. And if he does not? What is Plan B? Blank faces: there is no Plan B and never was. Blair, Cook and Robertson are just flying kites.

Events have overtaken them all. Rambouillet is dead in the water. Among other things it provided for the continued thralldom of Kosovo by Milosevic with 10,000 Serbian police as a security force. One might as well now propose a Jewish enclave of over a million souls protected by 10,000 Waffen-SS.

Mr Cook talks of continuing to bomb "as long as it takes". That is not good enough: there is a ticking clock here. In 40 more days there will probably not be a Kosovo left to liberate or a population left to restore. The former is being reduced to a scorched charnel-house: the West will be left with half a million women, children and geriatrics to care for.

Ms Vanora Bennett castigates me (article, April 13) for suggesting aid to the Kosovo Liberation Army, which she dismisses as "dogs of war" and "terrorists". The former fight only for money; the difference between a terrorist and a partisan depends simply on whose side you happen to be.

One understands that 200,000 male Kosovars are now hiding out in the mountains and forests inside Kosovo. They appear hungry, cold and unarmed. They need warm gear, food and weapons if they are to fight back. We could and should air-drop them what they need, along with Special Forces liaison officers, target-markers, radio-links, aggressive air cover and heli-borne re-supply.

The KLA alone can do nothing; air cover alone can do nothing. But co-ordinate the two and you have a fighting force. Who else is to stop Milosevic's "murder machine" (Tony Blair) as it mass-murders and gang-rapes its path across Kosovo? It is, after all, the Kosovars' homeland, not ours. Who are we to forbid them to fight for it?

Yours sincerely,  
FREDERICK FORSYTH,  
c/o Bantam Books,  
62-63 Uxbridge Road, W5 5SA.  
April 14.

From Mr Chris Kimberley

Sir, Despite the opposing spin applied by the UK Government and Nato, it is evident that the present strategy in Yugoslavia is not achieving the declared objectives rapidly. The flight of the ethnic Albanians has turned into a chaotic exodus in the face of genocide. The Serbs' capacity to commit atrocities has scarcely been diminished and Nato is not likely to be configured for a war on the ground in the region for some time.

This situation has been exacerbated, I believe, because Nato planners and the member governments failed to understand the intensity of nationalism in Yugoslavia. While diplomacy might ultimately have provided a solution, the Damoclean threat of Nato bombing did not provide an environment in which the Paris talks had any chance of success. The resulting campaign has had the effect of turning some sympathetic Serb opinion against the Nato member governments.

In the face of rampant nationalism in the US and the UK have pursued and sponsored diplomatic solutions to the problems in Northern Ireland and on the West Bank of the Jordan, despite the fact that negotiators speak on behalf of terrorists. This is in stark contrast to President Clinton threatening that Nato would have little option other than attack if negotiations with Serbia failed.

A great deal of effort is now being made in Nato to ensure that member governments hold the line. If Nato cannot immediately take action on the ground in defence of the Kosovo refugees, greater effort should be taken to achieve a diplomatic solution.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRIS KIMBERLEY,  
Tirion Pelyn, Plas-y-Wern,  
Glynrhedyn, Newquay,  
Ceredigion SA45 9ST.  
chris.kimberley@btconnect.com  
April 13.

From the Reverend Giles Hunt

Sir, Since Nato is bombing Serbia illegally, without either having declared war or obtained UN authority, will the pilot whose "error" led to the train being bombed face criminal charges (report, April 14)? Or does international law only apply to those we dislike, such as General Pinochet?

Yours faithfully,  
GILES HUNT,  
The Cottage,  
The Fairstead, Cley-next-the-Sea.

### Instruments in a living museum

From the President of the International Society of Violin and Bow Makers

Sir, Your correspondents Mr Robert Barclay and Mr Andy Lamb (April 12) take the blinkered museum line that old musical instruments exist solely to be conserved for the most part mutely, by panels of their so-called qualified experts.

It is nonsense to say, as Mr Barclay does, that "there is no such thing as a 'Stradivari sound'", and the late Lord Menhin, while giving every encouragement to the violin makers of his own time (letter, October 17, 1997), would have been the first to give credit to the range of uniquely beautiful tone colours made available for his performances by the genius of Antonio Stradivari and Giuseppe Guarneri, both of whom died more than 250 years ago. Furthermore Lord Menhin was, like many professional and amateur musicians, a very careful user.

There is certainly an argument for maintaining in museum conditions a very small percentage of the important old instruments, mainly those that have come down in immaculate preservation. Up to two dozen Stradivaris might qualify in this respect out of about 600 that survive.

The Royal Academy of Music's initiative should be welcomed. There is nothing elitist about public musical performance; indeed what could better than concerts, offer Mr Lamb his "wide-ranging public access schedules for all levels of society"?

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES BEARE,  
President, The International Society of Violin and Bow Makers,  
7 Broadwick Street, W1V 1FJ.  
April 13.

From Professor Denis Stevens

Sir, The plan for instruments evolved by Dr Curtis Price (report, April 7) is admirable and unassailable. The exercise of wood particles is as

### Employee surveillance

From Ms Gillian S. Howard

Sir, I enjoyed Alison Clarke's excellent article "Employees under surveillance", Law, April 6, and would support the proper regulation of covert surveillance by employers.

She says that the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Alison Halford's right of privacy had been infringed when her employer, the Merseyside Police Authority, intercepted the private telephone calls she made from her office.

Unfortunately the Court did not make such a definitive ruling. It held that it would not accept as a general principle that employers have a right to tap telephone calls made by employees at work.

However, the Court went on to say that, as long as employers warn their staff that their calls could be tapped, there would be no breach of the right

### Electing the Lords

From Captain M. H. Elliott

Sir, I note from your front page today that the Tory party is "on the brink of buckling radical proposals for a directly elected House of Lords".

What a sorry mess our constitution is in when, in the last year of the 20th century, a directly elected second chamber of Parliament is considered "radical".

Yours,  
MARCUS ELLIOTT,  
Pen Dinas, Great Orme,  
Llandudno, Conwy LL30 2QL.  
April 12.

From the Reverend David E. Flavell

Sir, I am delighted that Leonard Allen (letter, April 6; see also letters, April 13) thinks that the House of Lords is "unique" and that its freedom from party restraint is "refreshing and, on occasions, extremely valuable". I don't.

Seeing as we disagree, can we have a vote on it?

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID E. FLAVELL,  
39 Halkyn Avenue,  
Liverpool L17 2AH.

### Protection of birds

From Eleanor Batchelor

Sir, Whilst visiting my Grandma, who lives on an unmade road full of puddle-filled potholes, I observed a strange sight.

A bird of prey was unmistakably trying to drown a blackbird in a puddle, by holding its prey under the water. It sat on the blackbird so that it was completely submerged.

Is this a common phenomenon? (I could not bear to watch so I saved the blackbird by scaring away the hawk.)

Yours faithfully,  
ELEANOR BATCHELOR (aged 10).  
2 Swannmore Park House,  
Upper Swannmore,  
Hampshire SO32 2QS  
April 14.

Yours etc.,  
RICHARD JOHNSON.  
PO Box 110.  
Worsthorne Village,  
Lancashire BB10 3SQ.

### UK lags behind in brain medicine

From Mr Peter J. Hamlyn

Sir, The Stroke Association is to be thoroughly congratulated for publishing today one of the first robust studies of care in the United Kingdom of an acute brain disorder. They have demonstrated in the context of stroke that in most of Britain fewer than half the victims are cared for in specialist units and that fewer than 3 per cent of the doctors looking after acute stroke victims are specialists in neurological disorders.

Stroke affects 130,000 people each year, kills one in ten of us and leaves 11 per cent of our hospital beds occupied by its disabled survivors. We have known this for many years but what the Stroke Association has just shown us is that as a result of our poor-quality care the death rate is probably 25 per cent higher than it needs to be.

The British Brain and Spine Foundation recently reported to the Health Minister Tess Jowell the other worrying statistics, as best they are known, regarding neurological care in the UK. In no other OECD nation (the rich nations of the world) is there less than twice the number of neurosurgeons per head of population as is found in the UK. Many have ten times the number.

The neurological disorders are more common than heart disease or cancer. Head injury results in 150,000 admissions to hospital each year, dementia is more common than either head injury or stroke, epilepsy affects one in 200 of us, brain tumour 5,000 per year in addition to which one must add multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, Parkinson's disease, etc. They often affect the young, with head injury being the biggest killer of teenagers and males until their mid-twenties and brain tumours constituting the commonest solid cancer to affect children. We have the fifth highest stroke rate of any OECD nation and yet are left completely alone in defending a healthcare system that has so consistently and effectively under-resourced the care of brain and spine disorders.

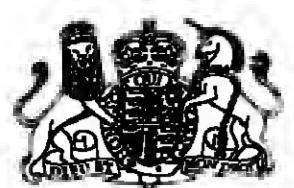
For too long this has been justified on the basis that the brain is too complicated an organ to treat. The advances of the past two decades have changed this. What has not changed is the proportion of our health resources directed towards the care of these disorders. The Stroke Association has shown us in this latest paper the bleak consequence of this inaction.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER J. HAMLYN  
(Consultant neurosurgeon),  
Vice-Chairman, British Brain & Spine Foundation,  
7 Winchelsea House,  
Kensington Park,  
Cranmer Road, SW9 6EJ.  
April 14.

From the Chairman of Council of The Stroke Association and others

Sir, We are writing today to the Secretary of State for Health to urge him to increase the priority given to stroke care within the National Health Service. Although a target in Our Healthier Nation (February 1998), stroke care seems to be slipping down the healthcare agenda.

The Stroke Association's report, Stroke Care —



## COURT CIRCULAR

## WINDSOR CASTLE

April 14: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh today gave a Reception at Windsor Castle for members of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association.

## WINDSOR CASTLE

April 14: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, this evening attended a Dinner for Voluntary Service Overseas at Frogmore House, Windsor.

## BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 14: The Princess Royal, President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, this morning visited the Route 53 Monitoring Plus Project, Brentford Avenue, Cheadle, Manchester, and attended a Seminar at the University of Manchester's Refactory Building and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Manchester High School for Girls, during their 125th Anniversary year, at Grangegorme Road, Manchester. The Princess Royal later visited St Ann's Hospice, Little Hulton, Salford, Manchester.

## Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, as patron, the Manchester Grammar School Foundation Bursary Appeal, will visit the school, at 10:20, and will visit Didsbury High School at noon. The Princess Royal, as patron, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, attend its spring meeting at York University at 10:30; opens the Rutland Family Support Centre at the Parks School, Oakham, at 1:30; opens Voluntary Action Rutland's Voluntary Centre at 2:40; will visit Rutland Electric Fencing to mark its 25th anniversary at 3:35; and will present a traditional horseshoe, requested of peers of the realm, to the Lord of the Manor at Oakham Castle at 4:25. Later, as patron, the Development Trust for the mentally handicapped will attend a dinner at Hill Street, London, at 7:45. The Duchess of Gloucester will attend a service of thanksgiving to mark the centenary of the League of St Bartholomew's Nurses in St Bartholomew's Great Church, West Smithfield, London, at 4:55. Princess Alexandra will attend the 20th reunion dinner of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association at the headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company, Armoury House, London, at 7:15. For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal website at [www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk)

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Richard Mulcaster, author, Standard Rivers, Essex, 1611; Abraham Lincoln, 16th American President 1861-65, assassinated at Ford's Theatre, Washington, 1865; Matthew Arnold, poet and critic, Liverpool, 1888; William Thomas Stead, journalist, perished on the *Titanic*, 1912; John Singer Sargent, portrait painter, London, 1925; Jean-Paul Sartre, Existentialist, Paris, 1980; Greta Garbo, actress, New York, 1942.

## KENSINGTON PALACE

April 14: The Duke of Gloucester this morning called upon the Mayor of Poznan (Mr Ryszard Grocholski) and afterwards visited the Old Town Square, Poznan.

His Royal Highness later called upon the Regional Governor (Mr Maciej Musial) and the Marshal of the Regional Government (Mr Stanislaw Mikolajczak) and afterwards visited the Polagrafa and Polisystem Trade Fairs, Polagrafa.

The Duke of Gloucester this afternoon attended a Service and laid a Wreath at the Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery (Lady Kett, the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps and the Hon Lady Weatherall, and the Vice-Marshall of the Diplomatic Corps).

Later His Royal Highness visited Glazow-Welcombe to view the Quality Control Laboratory, Poznan, Poland.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**

April 14: The Duke of Kent, President, The Stroke Association, this afternoon attended the International Scientific Centenary Conference at the Royal College of Physicians, St Andrews Place, London, NW1.

## Dinners

## Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayors were the hosts at the Easter banquet held last night at the Mansion House in honour of Members of the Diplomatic Corps and their escorts, together with the Sheriffs, members of the Court of Aldermen and the Court of Common Council and Officers of the Corporation of London and their escorts. The Lord Mayor, the Ambassador of Lebanon and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs among those present were: Mrs Robin Cook, the Speaker, Mr Murdoch Maclean, the Lord Chamberlain and Lady Camoys, the Bishop of London and Mrs Charles, Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH, Lord and Lady Levy, Sir Peter Studd, Mrs Anne Hervey-Bathurst, the Permanent Under-Secretary of State and Head of the Diplomatic Service and Lady Kett, the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps and the Hon Lady Weatherall, and the Vice-Marshall of the Diplomatic Corps.

## Lord Elbahn

Lord Elbahn was the host at a dinner held last night at the House of Lords for the Parliamentary Group for Energy Studies. Dr Kim Howells, Minister for Competition and Consumer Affairs, was the guest of honour.

**Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers**

Admiral Sir Derek Reffell, Master of the Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers, presided at the livery's annual Motor Industry dinner held last night at Butchers' Hall. Lieutenant-General Sir Anthony Mullens, and Mr Bill Morris, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, also spoke. The Chairman and Managing Director of the Ford Motor Company and the Director-General of the Defence Manufacturers Association were among the guests.

A Motor Centenary Livery Society was awarded to Mr Nicholas Smart.

## Legal appointments

Mr Justice Mance, 55, to be a Lord Justice of Appeal from April 28. He will replace Lord Justice Hirst, who is retiring on April 27. Mr Justice Mance was appointed a judge of the High Court (Queen's Bench Division) in 1993.

Mr Thomas Simon Ashwell Hawkesworth, QC, 55, to be a Circuit Judge on the North Eastern Circuit. He became a deputy circuit Judge in 1980 and a recorder in 1982.

## Christening

The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Bathurst was christened Honoria Mary Callander by the Rev Christopher Cooke at St Peter's, Woodside, on Sunday, April 11. The godparents are Mr Duncan Hill, Mr Simon Leachias, Mrs Charles Houston and Mrs Joyce Prowse.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 15 1999

## OBITUARIES

**Frank Tuohy, writer, died in hospital in Shepton Mallet on April 11 aged 73. He was born on May 2, 1925.**

**A**lthough his creative output was relatively small in volume – as a novelist he was even more reticent than his admired E. M. Forster – Frank Tuohy came to occupy a position in contemporary English fiction which he made completely his own.

This had something to do with the fact that he was extraordinarily well travelled – in the sense that he had lived and worked in several widely differing countries and had absorbed their cultures and languages. But he did not deploy these experiences, as so many of his contemporaries were tempted to do, merely to create exotic settings for his stories. The fumbling attempts by the representatives of different civilisations to understand each other were used by him not so much to make cultural comparisons as to illustrate the fraught business of human communication on any level and in any milieu.

Thus, the visit of a well-heeled English woman to her poverty-stricken married sister in postwar Poland inhabits the same psychological terrain as a first dinner date whose participants strive desperately not to make contact with each others' knees under the table. A Japanese academic finding herself groped by a much admired English poet she has come to visit suffers agonies of embarrassment which are little different in kind from those of a man and woman whose first outing to the cinema exposes them to explicit sex scenes, an experience which puts intolerable strains on their nascent relationship.

Tuohy had a penetrating eye for social mores. In his English stories he unspuriously depicted the inhabitants of enclaves of jealously-preserved gentility. Wealthy idlers and their tendency to impose on the less fortunate were anathema to him. But even here he was never merely propagandist. Snobs and country brutes could suffer their embarrassments too. Thus, the colonel's fresh-faced, horsey daughter takes up with

a low-life, doctrinaire lesbian; the son and brightest hope of the family returns home from travels abroad accompanied by a malodorous and hairy Balkan peasant.

Tuohy wrote three novels, all of which had a warmer critical than commercial reception. But it is in the short story that he is at his best. *The Collected Stories of Frank Tuohy* (1984), which summarised the best of several earlier volumes, distilled his characteristic strengths and preoccupations.

John Francis Tuohy was born in Sussex, the son of a doctor. He was educated at Stowe, but congenital heart defect (corrected by surgery in 1960) ruled him out for military service and he went straight to Cambridge where he read English and philosophy.

In the cheerless atmosphere of postwar Britain he decided to go abroad, and in 1950, after a year, 1947–48, as a lecturer in Finland at the University of Turku, he set off for South America where he found himself a lucrative job as Professor of English language and litera-



Tuohy: feeling for the discomfort in human relationships

ture at São Paulo University. He also wrote, and his first two novels both have Brazil as their milieu.

*The Animal Game*, which appeared in 1957, had a young

young people consumed by selfish sexual passion. Tuohy rescued his hero before he, too, succumbed.

His second novel, *The Warm Nights of January* (1960), occupied similar sexual terrain, with the Brazilian background evoked with great skill as the *mise-en-scène* for a tangled affair, this time between an expatriate French artist and her black Brazilian lover. By this time Tuohy himself had moved on from Brazil, where he had spent six years. From 1958 he spent two years teaching in Poland, on the academic staff of the Jagiellonian University of Krakow.

This provided him with the setting for his third novel *The Ice Saints* (1964). In it, a well-to-do young Englishwoman makes the trip to Poland in the aftermath of the Stalinist era to tell her sister, who is married to a Pole, that their son has come into a legacy. But her nodon who the money shall be used to 'rescue' her nephew from what she regards as the poverty of the Polish way of life is defeated by what the reader

eventually perceives as the moral superiority of her sister and brother-in-law. This was an impressive performance in which the horrors of Polish life under communism were in no way ameliorated. Tuohy achieved a subtle shift from trifling sympathy with the well-meaning and perplexed visitor to final recognition of her essential shallowness. The novel won Tuohy the James Tait Black Memorial Prize.

Meanwhile, Tuohy was on the move again. From 1964 to 1967 he was a visiting professor at Waseda University in Tokyo, and he was to return to the E. M. Forster Memorial Award. In *Live Bail* he widened his horizons once again, to produce a collection of insight and subtlety. Tuohy also wrote a study *Portugal* (1970) and a biography *Yeats* (1976), which was praised for its succinctness in an era when literary biographies were all too frequently becoming affairs of a thousand pages.

Tuohy published his first volume of short stories, *The Admiral and the Nuns* in 1962, although he had already won the Katherine Mansfield-Menton short story prize in 1960. He was to continue to write short stories for some time after he had fallen silent as a

## BRIGADIER WILFRED PONSONBY

**Brigadier Wilfred Ponsonby, OBE, soldier and conjurer, died on March 16 aged 93. He was born in Canada on July 10, 1905.**



MEMBERSHIP of the Magic Circle has, perhaps, never been thought an asset in military circles, but Wilfred Ponsonby's expertise in this department was a great help in keeping up the spirits of the inmates of Spangenberg prisoner-of-war camp during the long dreary years of captivity.

Ponsonby was among those who were unlucky enough not to be evacuated from Dunkirk. When the Blitzkrieg began on May 10, 1940, he and his signal squadron were sent to join the 51st (Highland) Division, which was separated from the rest of the British Expeditionary Force on the right of the French line in a position to the southeast of Luxembourg.

So when the retreat to the sea began, and the division and Ponsonby's signals unit had much further to go than the bulk of Lord Gort's force, it was a race they lost, arriving at St Valéry-en-Caux, southwest of Dieppe, in the second week of June with the Germans in hot pursuit. With the enemy commanding the heights around the town and the Navy hampered by bad weather, hopes of evacuation soon faded and the division

was compelled to surrender.

From the earliest days of his captivity, Ponsonby was on the lookout for ways of escaping. Within the first 24 hours he and a fellow officer had given their captors the slip and spent several days at liberty on the French coast trying to find a boat. After being rounded up they were taken to Germany, where he made several more attempts to escape. The most successful of these was from the Obermassfeld prison hospital, where he and another friend had had themselves sent on the pretence of being ill. On that occasion they simply walked out, and they were halfway to the Swiss frontier before being recaptured.

When he was not escaping, Ponsonby amused his fellow inmates with conjuring and by organising theatricals, an

other passion of his. These activities had an inestimable effect in keeping spirits up, and at the end of the war Ponsonby was, unusually, appointed OBE for his work in the camps.

Wilfred Ponsonby was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the son of a Royal Engineers officer and a Canadian mother. From Shrewsbury School he went to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, from where he joined the newly-formed Royal Signals.

An excellent rider, he had a

spell in India with a cavalry

brigade in the 1930s and when war came in 1940 found himself in command of a signals squadron. He was lucky enough not to have to spend the entire war in captivity. Never robust in appearance, he managed to convince his captors that he was suffering from tuberculosis, and in 1943 he was repatriated via Sweden.

Forbidden by the repatriation rules to return to a combat unit, he spent the rest of the war on the staff, at first on communications for the Normandy invasion and towards the end of the war on signals for the relief of Norway, in Scottish Command. After the war, and spells in Sudan and at Catterick, he was chosen in 1949 to represent Britain in telecommunications in the Western Union

Defence Organisation, which was taken over by Eisenhower when Nato was formed. At the end of this career he returned to the pan-European sphere as chairman of the European Military Communications Co-ordination Committee, retiring from the Army in 1957.

He next worked for two

years as technical staff officer

to the Ministry of Supply,

then for the Royal Observer Corps in 1960, before finally retiring in 1964.

He became senior steward of Catterick racecourse, and was a keen member of the Leyburn amateur dramatic society. In 1969 he participated in a BBC film about military life from 1916 to 1955, entitled *Days of Hope*. The film, directed by Ken Loach, traced the lives of two brothers, one of whom volunteered while the other became a conscientious objector. Ponsonby played a recruiting officer.

His first wife Chris, died in

1974, after a 19-year battle

against multiple sclerosis. In

1976 he married an old friend, Pat Taylor. He is survived by her and by three sons and by three daughters from his first

marriage.

Pat Taylor died in 1997.

He is survived by his son

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# THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY APRIL 15 1999

## NEWS

### Bombs hit refugee convoy

■ Nato began an urgent investigation last night after its bombers were accused of hitting a convoy of Albanian refugees, killing 75 people. Nato admitted that it had attacked the road where the refugees were supposed to be travelling, but insisted it had targeted military vehicles. It promised careful analysis of its cockpit video of its attack..... Reports, pages 1, 13-16

### Blair's daughter in mid-air drama

■ Tony Blair's 11-year-old daughter Kathryn was one of the 235 passengers aboard a jumbo jet that hit violent turbulence at 33,000 feet. As the plane fell for 30 seconds on the approach to Changi in Singapore, passengers were sent flying across the cabin. One person was smashed through the ceiling of the cabin by the force of the turbulence..... Page 1, 3

### Airbag alarm

Car manufacturers were last night under pressure to warn motorists of the potential dangers of airbags after the findings of an inquest into the death of a middle-aged woman..... Page 2

### Guildford murder

A 17-year-old girl murdered during a birthday celebration in Guildford on Monday night was a top student at the £15,000-a-year Millfield School in Somerset, police said..... Page 3

### Purists pan pedalo

The graceful art of punting down the Cherwell is under threat from a new breed of pedalo, identical in shape to a punt, but lacking the pole..... Page 5

### Police recruiting push

Police must recruit an extra 8,000 black and Asian officers within the next ten years and make forces represent their communities, says Jack Straw..... Page 6

### British pride retained

The sense of being British is alive and well, and has not been dampened by the creation of Scottish and Welsh assemblies, according to a new poll..... Page 18

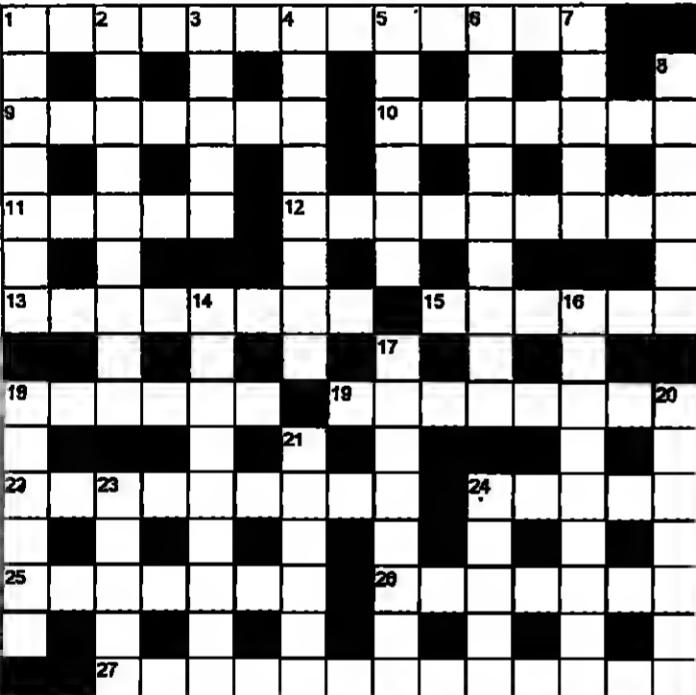
### New Pinochet row

Supporters and opponents of General Augusto Pinochet were locked in a row over new charges sent by Spain to Britain to bolster the extradition case..... Page 19

### Heave-ho, it's an elephant to go

■ A lot of heave-ho, shouting and tranquillisers is the answer to the debate over what to do with too many elephants, according to a Zimbabwean game expert. Instead of moving them down in culs when overpopulation threatens to destroy their environment, Clem Coetsee knocks them out, loads them on to a pantechnicon and takes them wherever you want..... Page 18

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,078



### ACROSS

- Made out to be important (13).
- Agree Egyptian deity is a figure of the imagination (7).
- Plan friendly gesture to bird (7).
- Height achieved by fighter force (5).
- Position of perfect balance one needed to cut boundary (5-4).
- One way to get face relaxed (4-4).
- Loved the return of Eliot's hero, leaving North (6).
- Somebody often supported by Lord Chancellor (6).
- Female help's attachment to male help (8).
- Young animals eat a lot, nothing complicated (4,5).
- Learned ostentatiously good in shot stretch (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,077



25 Flat accommodation here for half the usual people? (7).

26 See one university admitted to cut in old-fashioned course (7).

27 Say completely in old language (7,6).

DOWN

- Like our currency - get about one million in swap (7).
- Punishing with hanging, having taken drug (9).
- Unskilled writer moved over into computer studies (5).
- Aim to get excitement in keeper's job (4-4).
- Cause weakness? Not even to the French (6).
- Rash got from being out in sun without hat? (3-6).
- Fear being killed, if resistance is overcome (5).
- Stop supporting modest bid, being mean (6).
- Butterfly is overflowing with colour (9).
- Keep on working to break into paper (9).
- Pieces of paper covering outcome of union negotiation? (8).
- British family I caught on island, a Pacific one (6).
- Problem as area is omitted from phone book (7).
- Be encouraged to make small profit in America (4,2).
- Keen to sing this? (5).
- Superior sort of busybody, say (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

## WEATHER INFORMATION

**UK Weather - All regions** 0336 464 910  
**UK Weather - All regions** 0336 461 410  
**Inside F22** 0336 461 246  
**Met Office** 0336 461 246  
**Met Office** 0336 461 746  
**Consumer Services** 0336 461 110  
**Consumer Services** 0336 461 396  
**Motorway Information** 0336 467 302

**World City Weather** 0336 461 1210

**UK Weather - All regions** 0336 461 246

**Met Office** 0336 461 246

**Consumer Services** 0336 461 110

**Motorway Information** 0336 467 302

**Indirect Weather Services** 0336 461 1210

**Weather by Fax** 0336 461 246

**Met Office** 0336 461 246

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SDAY APRIL 15  
RADIO & TV  
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FBI...  
BBC's...  
Pap...  
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to beat  
Sport, page 49

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

BUSINESS • ARTS • BOOKS • SPORT • TELEVISION

مكتبة من الأصل

# THE TIMES

THURSDAY APRIL 15 1999

Optimism returns to City as FTSE touches new high

By ALASDAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

CITY optimism about the health of the economy has staged an "astounding" recovery in the past few months, a new report published yesterday claimed.

The latest monthly survey of fund managers by Merrill Lynch and Gallup showed that more than 90 per cent of City investors anticipate an improvement in the economy over the next year compared with just 3 per cent in September.

The City's optimism is supported by a separate report from Business Strategies, the economic research group, which suggests Britain will comfortably avoid recession this year recording growth of 0.8 per cent.

It gave warning, however, that the overall picture masked sharp regional divergences. Scotland and the North East will suffer an outright decline in output while the South East will achieve a 2 per cent growth rate.

The evidence of rising confidence came at the stock market set yet another record high. The FTSE 100 touched 6,539.9 but failed to hold its gains and eventually closed down 19.5 at 6,493.6.

The Merrill Lynch survey confirms that City fund managers are increasingly bullish about the outlook for the economy, expecting economic growth of 1.1 per cent this

"Speed up reform" 32

year — in line with the Treasury's forecast — and climbing to 2 per cent in 2000.

Fund managers remain moderate buyers of UK equities and are selling gilts. However, they are more sceptical about the high valuations of US shares and are switching to Japan and Asia Pacific in search of value.

The Japanese market has been the world's top performer this year despite few signs of a recovery. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development yesterday added to doubts about Japan's ability to return to growth, saying the country stood on the verge of decades of stagnation.

In a report commissioned by the Japanese Government, the OECD called on policymakers to introduce comprehensive regulatory reforms to ward off the spectre of long-term economic underperformance.

US policymakers have been critical of Japan's reluctance to reform claiming that it is leaving the US to take the strain of the global growth. If the US economy falters, global growth rates are set to head even lower.

Trevor Greenham, global strategist at Merrill Lynch, argues, however, that a rebound in Japanese growth could prove more damaging to Western economies.

"Another slump in Asia would probably be just as positive for Western equities as the last one," he said.



2

A fine  
Pangloss  
on wit  
Arts, page 39



# Halifax to sell off 224 estate agency branches

By CAROLINE MERRELL  
AND SUSAN EMMETT

HALIFAX has put up the "for sale" sign on 224 branches of its estate agency network in a move that could threaten up to 1,500 jobs.

The cost of the disposals and subsequent rationalising of its high street network will, said the bank, be about £55 million in addition to a goodwill accounting write-down of £120 million on the branches to be sold.

Halifax yesterday said that it is confident that it would find buyers for all the agencies, representing more than a third of its 606 outlets. Countrywide Assured, the UK's biggest estate agency chain, has already expressed an interest in acquiring some of the branches. The Bradford & Bingley, the building society that acquired Black Horse agencies of Lloyds TSB last year, also indicated that it would be taking a look.

James Crosby, Halifax chief executive, said that the restructuring costs would be recouped over three years, with

## LENDERS FAIL TO FIND DES. RES. IN THE HIGH STREET

HALIFAX is not the only high street lender to scale down its involvement in estate agency. Only last year, Lloyds TSB sold off its 370-branch estate agency network for £60 million to Bradford & Bingley. Woolwich also pulled out of estate agency in 1998 by selling off its 167-branch chain to Winterflood Life for around £23 million. It had previously bought part of the chain from Prudential eight years previously for £20 million.

Nationwide, the UK's biggest building society, sold its loss-making 300-branch estate agency business to Hamro Countrywide, which later became Countrywide for just £1 in 1994. The society lost a total of £200 million on its estate agency venture. The UK clearing banks, apart from the Lloyds TSB, have preferred to steer entirely clear of estate agents. Barclays, NatWest and Midland have never been tempted in to the market.

Annual savings worth £50 million. The estate agency chain as a whole is responsible for 10 per cent of Halifax's new mortgage business — equivalent to £1 billion a year.

The move to shed the agencies will leave the Halifax with 382 outlets, 150 of which would be linked in some way to a main Halifax banking branch.

Mr Crosby said: "The real inspiration behind this is that it will improve introductions and cross-references between the two networks, so we're confident of making that back up over the next two to three years."

The estate agency chain was built up over ten years. Regional branch networks were bought and rebranded as Halifax Property Services. Mr Crosby said its smaller outlets were the most likely to be sold. He said the board had already received expressions of interest from the agencies' management teams and from third parties. After the disposals, Halifax will remain Britain's third-largest high street estate agency network.

An integration programme at the bank is aimed at creating a single, flatter management structure by the end of August this year. The current

123 banking and estate agency regional units are to be replaced by 50 Customer Marketing Areas, with one manager responsible for both businesses in each area.

Halifax's partial exit from the market comes as one of the potential bidders, Countrywide Assured, unveiled record trading figures. The company said results for March dwarfed February's strong performance but gave warning that its surveying and conveyancing operations would be strained if high demand continued.

Countrywide surveyors achieved record levels, carry-

ing out more than 64,000 surveys in March, while the conveyancing division opened more than 4,500 new files. The estate agency arm, which comprises of 750 outlets, also recorded a record level of fees at more than £16 million, compared with £14 million the previous month.

Harry Hill, group managing director, said: "We are going to have a good market. The only problem I can think of is coping with the extra demand. Our conveyancers and surveyors could struggle to maintain their service standards."

Figures from the Halifax itself, however, paint a more subdued picture. The country's largest mortgage lender said house prices rose by just 0.2 per cent in the first quarter of 1999, compared with a rise of 1 per cent in the final quarter of last year. It was the lowest quarterly rise since the third quarter of 1995. Annual house price inflation also fell to 4.4 per cent from 5.5 per cent in the final quarter of 1998.

Commentary, page 29

Daimler Chrysler faces EU dealer inquiry

By CARL MORTISHEAD  
INTERNATIONAL  
BUSINESS EDITOR

DAIMLERCHRYSLER has been accused by the European Commission of illegal sales practices involving Mercedes-Benz dealerships.

The automotive could face massive fines of up to 10 per cent of its turnover if the European competition watchdog prosecutes the company for attempting to seal off markets and prevent consumers from taking advantage of price differences across borders.

The EU has issued a formal warning to DaimlerChrysler containing evidence of sales restrictions imposed on dealers in Germany. The Netherlands, Belgium and Spain that "impaired the ability of dealers to sell to people residing outside their territory".

The inquiry concerns events in the ten years to 1996. DaimlerChrysler said that it was cooperating with the investigation.

According to Stefan Rating, a spokesman for the Commission, the restrictions came in the form of formal prohibitions to sell abroad. "There used to be a lively cross-border trade. In Spain, some Mercedes dealers sold half their cars abroad."

Further pressure to scrap the "block exemption", the concession that allows car manufacturers to control the dealerships, is now likely. Mr Rating said: "The condition under which we accepted the block exemption was that individuals could buy cars where they chose."

The EU has also found evidence that competition within Germany in the fleet and rental car market was being hampered by conditions imposed on Mercedes-Benz dealers not to compete outside of their area.

The control exercised by auto manufacturers over dealer pricing of cars has provoked several investigations, including a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry in the UK, which is due to report this year. An EU survey found differences of as much as 40 per cent in the price of similar cars across Europe.

The DaimlerChrysler inquiry is the second European investigation into attempts to segregate markets and manipulate prices in the auto trade.

3i closer to winning bid for Electra

## Business Today

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### Rouble trouble

Challenges for the EBRD ahead of its annual meeting

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FINANCIAL MARKETS

FTSE 100 6493.6 (-19.5)  
FTSE All Share 2,125.3 (-2.9)  
Nikkei 16764.8 (+49.52)

New York  
Dow Jones 10,624.12 (+51.11)  
S&P Composite 1,348.11 (+1.80)

US MARKET

Federal Funds 4% 5/8\* (-4%)

Long bond 90%\* (88%)

V-Tech 5.50%\* (5.50%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank 5%\* (5%)

Libor 10-day gilt future (4m) 117.95 (117.98)

STERLING

New York 1,6125 (1,6160)

London 1,5177 (1,5167)

S 1,4995 (1,4993)

SPX 2,4098 (2,4025)

Yen 192.07 (194.30)

E Index 108.0 (103.2)

TOKYO CLOSE YEN 119.16

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day Jun. \$14.75 (\$15.10)

COMMODITIES

London close Gold 528.25 (526.85)

\* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates Page 28

TIME'S MONEY

www.times-money.co.uk



Window shopping: Halifax's estate agency branches have already attracted interest from Countrywide Assured and Bradford & Bingley

"Ripped off", page 28

## BG and Shell's £617m bid wins Brazilian gas

By CARL MORTISHEAD, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

BG AND SHELL have won the tender for control of Latin America's largest gas distribution company with a £98 million (£617 million) bid for a majority stake in Comgas, the Sao Paulo gas utility in Brazil.

The successful bid for Comgas, won against stiff competition from Enron, Agip and Gas Natural of Spain, gives BG a controlling interest in a vast gas network in Latin America's Southern Cone.

BG is buying a share in the gas monopoly in São Paulo to complement its dominant interest in Metrogas the Buenos Aires gas company. The two gas hubs will soon

## Worldwide revamp for Burger King

BURGER KING, the fast-food chain owned by Diageo, is planning to revamp its 10,200 restaurants around the world — and says that fitting its hamburger logo is a key feature of the strategy (Paul Armstrong writes).

Burger King said that the new, lopsided bun would "suggest motion and dimension" and "better reflect the company's core equities".

The group is also promising computer games for children and more efficient kitchens.

A spokesman for Burger King refused to say how much the renovations would cost or when the modernisation would reach the United Kingdom.

Commentary, page 29

## Arnault online in £2.6m art deal

By FRASER NELSON

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, who is fighting François Pinault for control of Gucci, is to take on his arch-rival in a new arena: online auctions.

He has paid £2.64 million to become the largest shareholder in iCollector, a tiny Ofex-traded company that sells antiques, fine art and other collectables over the Internet.

This will bring him into direct competition with M. Pinault who owns Christie's, the international auction house, which is planning to launch its own on-line auction service in September this year.

Richard Lampert, iCollector's chief operating officer,

said M. Arnault will control a 20 per cent stake. iCollector has been trading for four years, and has been selling fine art and antiques for the past seven months.

In July last year, M. Pinault paid £721 million for Christie's. Last month he gave Gucci a £3 billion cash injection in return for a 40 per cent stake.

M. Arnault, who has 34 per cent of Gucci, is now trying to mount a full £8.5 billion takeover bid to thwart M. Pinault.

Commentary, page 29

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## BMW's plans discussed

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BMW is soon to begin the transformation of its Rover Longbridge factory, starting with talks between the company and the trade unions on investment plans.

The German car company said it would open talks on the implementation of its investment after agreeing in principle to the aid package offered by the UK Government. BMW is expected to put up to £1.7 billion into the loss-making Longbridge, while aid from the UK, including Treasury cash, regional grants and council allowances, is likely to reach £200 million in staged payments.

Production methods and productivity are expected to be the main focus of the talks.

Tony Woodley, the Transport and General Workers' Union's chief negotiator for the car industry, said he expected BMW to look at outsourcing some operations to suppliers as it transforms Longbridge from an outdated integrated car plant to a more modern operation. "Longbridge will emerge smaller and leaner, and there will be less direct Rover workers. But that does not mean to say there will be less jobs overall."



Information pack: Greycoat's Peter Thornton, chairman, left, Martin Poole and Chris Strickland, development director

## Greycoat 'up for sale' as it snubs Delancey

By CARL MORTISHED

Greycoat, the Central London property developer, revealed a 29 per cent increase in its net worth yesterday and shrugged off a hostile bid from Delancey Estates, dismissing the 194p per share paper offer as "the wrong price" and "the wrong currency".

Greycoat's share price gained 10p to 234½p after the property group announced that its year-end revaluation had produced a rise in net asset value from 220p to 233p.

Martin Poole, finance director, said that the offer from Delancey, a company backed by George Soros and British

Land, was "almost irrelevant" as Greycoat has put itself up for sale. Mr Poole said that Rothschild, the merchant bank, was already sending information packages to interested buyers as part of the tender process which would be completed in five weeks, ahead of the Delancey bid.

"Delancey are welcome to take part in that process," he said.

Greycoat is expecting offers from major institutions, as well as large property companies and other investors, who have expressed interest in the company's assets. A number

of potential buyers have indicated that they want Greycoat's directors to stay on to manage the assets.

A core attraction of Greycoat is £100 million in accumulated tax losses which should shelter a bidder from any tax liability for years to come. Mr Poole said that Greycoat had considered three options: a liquidation, a sale of the company or to double its size by taking over a rival. "The obvious candidate is Wales [the City of London property developer] but even that would leave us at half the size of what the institutions want."

Tempus, page 30

## Maxwell firm is cleared over fees

By JON ASHWORTH

The accountant who was criticised for charging £1.6 million in a fruitless search for assets of the late Robert Maxwell has been cleared of wrongdoing in case which has lasting implications for the accountancy and legal professions.

Peter Phillips of the firm Buchler Phillips, receiver to Maxwell's estate, was widely criticised when it emerged that all but £40,000 of recoveries had been swallowed up in his costs. A High Court judge described the figures as "profoundly shocking".

The matter was referred to the legal official who usually investigates challenges by clients to solicitors' fees. In his preliminary ruling, the official Chief Master Hurst completely vindicates Mr Phillips, saying the receiver was "carried out with a high degree of skill and efficiency".

The ruling will stoke the debate on whether lawyers and accountants should be paid on a contingency basis — fees paid as a percentage of recoveries — or on a time-basis. Chief Master Hurst found that of £66,000 claimed by Buchler Phillips in fees, some £65,000 was allowable — that is 99 per cent of the fee had been fairly earned.

Morries recovered by Buchler Phillips were in many cases claimed by other parts of the Maxwell receivership, skewing the ratio of fees to recoveries. Chief Master Hurst said: "Had the receivers not investigated all leads, they would have been open to the severest criticism."

The ruling is an embarrassment to Mr Justice Ferris, the judge who referred the matter in July 1997 saying: "I find it shameful that a receivership should produce this result."

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP Management set to buy British Fittings

BRITISH FITTINGS, the industrial components distributor, is understood to have agreed a £35.6 million management buyout deal which could be announced as early as today (Fraser Nelson writes). City sources believe that Michael Borlenghi, its chairman, and Brian Stanton, the chief executive, have found backing to make a 140p-a-share cash offer for the Birmingham-based engineering company.

The offer is said to have been approved by M&G, the fund manager, and Eagle Investment Trust, its two largest institutional investors. Three weeks ago, the company returned an £8 million annual loss after taking a good-will charge on the disposal of its high-pressure water-jetting business. Its shares have been buoyed by takeover talk for the past six weeks, with rivals Wolseley or Oliver Ashworth named as possible bidders. The shares added 5½p to 124p in trading yesterday to hit a record high as more than half a million shares changed hands. The stock has skipped up from a low of 68p, touched just before Christmas.

Zeneca's China venture

ZENECA AGROCHEMICALS has begun work on a \$110 million (£68 million) herbicide manufacturing plant in China, which will supply the Asian region once it becomes operational in 2001. The plant, a joint venture with three Chinese partners, will make paraquat, the active ingredient in Zeneca's Gramoxone. Sir David Barnes, deputy chairman of newly merged AstraZeneca, will tomorrow be present at the ground-breaking ceremony in Nantong, Jiangsu province. The plant is the largest agrochemical investment in China by a foreign company.

## Phytopharm progress

PHYTOPHARM, the company seeking to develop medicines from plants, signalled that it is making progress with its development project with Pfizer. It said yesterday that it had established a South African operation to provide supplies for phase II and phase III trials for P57, derived from a desert cactus, which it hoped could be developed into a lucrative treatment for obesity. Phase II trials to establish proof of principle will begin in the next few months. Phytopharm's shares climbed 4½p to 261½p, up from 80p last August.

## JP Morgan income up

JP MORGAN yesterday became the latest US securities house to flex its muscles after recovering from last year's global market turmoil. It said net income for the first quarter rose 64 per cent to \$600 million. This was in spite of a 67 per cent fall in proprietary trading revenues, which included write downs on Brazilian equity investments. Overall return on equity in the first quarter was 22 per cent, up from 13 per cent a year ago. The results followed strong profit performances from Merrill Lynch and Paine Webber earlier this week.

## Pennon forecasts rise

SOUTH WEST WATER yesterday became the latest company to offer a price cut short of the regulator's demands. Pennon, its holding company, said it could cut bills by 2 per cent up to the years 2001-2002. Ian Bayt, the regulator, has called for a 15-20 per cent cut in South West's bills, which are the highest in the country. Pennon forecast it would then have to increase bills so that by 2004/2005 — the end of the next regulatory period — they would be 2.4 per cent higher than they are now.

## AIB eyes Polish bank

ALLIED IRISH BANKS, which already owns 60 per cent of Weikopolski Bank in Poland, is close to being selected by the Polish Government as the preferred buyer of 80 per cent of the Bank Zachodni. In an interview given to a Polish newspaper, Thomas Mulcahy, chief executive, indicated that AIB was interested in expanding in Poland, where the Government has been selling off state-owned businesses. Separately, HSBC confirmed a price of \$178 million (£110 million) for its purchase of a 67 per cent holding in Mid-Med Bank of Malta.

## Brixton exits Belgium

BRIXTON ESTATE said yesterday it had ceased operating in Belgium by selling its Belgian subsidiaries to Leasimwest SA for £41.2 million and that its property assets in Germany were being actively marketed. The divestment, which follows the sale of the company's French property in March, is the penultimate step in its strategy to pull out of Europe and focus on its core area in southeast England. The Belgian companies generated a pre-tax profit of £3.2 million in 1998 and their net assets were £43.8 million.

## IT quartet for Synstar

SYNSTAR revealed yesterday that it had won four new information technology contracts worth a total of £35 million and covering periods of between three and five years. The company said it had also renewed a maintenance agreement with Telecom Italia. Synstar said it won IT contracts from GKN Westland Helicopters, Galileo, The Royal Navy and Belgian Bank KBC. In addition, it has renewed its partnership with Telecom Italia to provide maintenance to its five printer centres, which generate the telephone bills for its customers throughout Italy.

## Cadbury revises sale

THE Coca-Cola Company has amended the terms of its proposal to buy Cadbury Schweppes in Australia. In an effort to win the approval of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Cadbury Schweppes Australia (CSA) has agreed to use its Schweppes Coffey's business to provide a competitor of sufficient size to satisfy the ACCC. CSA will also take ownership of several additional brands, meaning the size of its business will not change. The companies are waiting for the ACCC to review the proposal.

## Car buyers being 'ripped off'

CAR and motorbike manufacturers are ripping off British consumers, an all-party committee of MPs was told yesterday (Robert Lea writes).

The Trade and Industry Select Committee, which is looking into so-called "parallel imports", was told that final consumers could pay up to £8,000 or 30 per cent less for a car from an independent trader than they would from an official dealer.

Representatives of the British Independent Motor Trade Association and the Association of Parallel Importers (which represents motorcycle dealers) told the committee of the effect of the "grey market", in which broadened goods are brought into the country

through "unofficial channels".

The committee is investigating trading, trademark and competition issues.

It's figures show that an independent trader is likely to sell a new Alfa Romeo 146 TI for 30 per cent less than

£17,000 price tag at a main dealer. On the much cheaper Ford KA 2, officially retailing at £8,845, the difference is about 21 per cent. It was claimed that at the top of the market, consumers could buy a 1999 Porsche 911 Carrera for

£60,000 from an independent against nearly £68,000 from a Porsche franchise.

Speaking ahead of the committee hearing, Richard Moore, of BIIMTA, said: "If the Government truly has the interests of consumers at heart it can prove it by lifting restrictions on the number of cars allowed to be brought into the UK by independents."

Jack Glover, of the API, said: "Trademark rights were established to assure consumers about the origins of the goods they were buying, not to protect suppliers and thereby big company profits. These figures clearly show how companies are ripping off the UK public, forcing them to pay artificially high prices."

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

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## STOCK MARKET

SAEED SHAH

# Shares drift lower as investors take a break

A SHORTAGE of corporate news and an uninspiring start on Wall Street saw the London stock market pause for a breather yesterday. After a marked fall in the morning, followed by a rise to a new high of 6,539.9 points early in the afternoon, the leading index eventually closed down 19.5 points at 6,493.6.

Modest profit-taking on blue chips and bargain hunting among second-liners was the order of the day, with the FTSE 250 managing a 45.1-point gain to 5,637.5.

Warren Buffett, the legendary American investor, continues to intrigue the market after his admission on Monday that he has taken a stake in a large British company.

Mr Buffett is known to be keen on companies with strong consumer brands and speculation has linked him with Marks & Spencer, 14p better at 443.5p, and Cadbury Schweppes, which sweetened 18p to 93.5p. Other shares linked to Buffett yesterday included British Airways, up 32p to 520.5p, and Reckitt & Colman, 11.5p better at 70p.

Shares of British Steel were up 10p to 149.5p, with a hefty 33 million changing hands. The company climbed to a nine-month high, buoyed by a recent slew of positive analysts' comment and a subsequent shortage of stock. Credit Suisse First Boston reiterated its "buy" recommendation on the stock, saying it believed there was a high probability that the expected industry consolidation would go ahead.

The chemicals sector powered ahead by 4.7 per cent, providing much of the action. ICI led the way, shooting up 47.5p to 635.5p, after a report that it is close to a deal to sell its materials and industrial chemicals divisions to Huntsman of the US. The warm feeling spread to Burmah Castrol, the chemicals and lubricants group, which improved 93p to £10.34 with two aggressive buyers reported in the market.

Laporte, the company that began the chemical reaction at the beginning of the week, gained 34p to 701.5p on rumours that talks to buy the company may restart. Swiss giant Clariant is thought to have been scared off after the massive 30 per cent price hike on Monday when news of discussions was leaked.

Abbey National rose 29p to



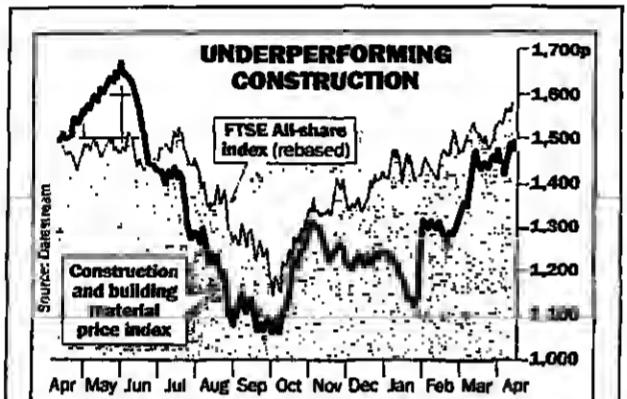
Lord Owen, chairman, saw shares of Middlesex Holdings rise 50 per cent to 1.08p despite a warning on bad debts

£14.09 after SG Securities advised clients to switch into the stock from NatWest, unchanged at 15.44.

There was support for BSkyB, 18p better at 599.4p after Investors' Henderson Crosthwaite placed a 27p a share valuation on the company's stake in British Interactive Broadcasting and stepped up its target price for BSkyB to

630p from 580p. Buying ahead of Monday's new business numbers helped Norwich Union gain 12p to 456.4p, while Diageo advanced 19p to 685.5p after announcing a revamp of its Burger King chain.

Freinet Group, the telecoms company, advanced 18p to 472.5p on talk that it is to announce European expansion plans later this week.



THE outlook for the building and construction sector has improved markedly amid evidence that the economy will have a soft landing and that demand for houses remains strong.

This year the sector has seen a 30 per cent price gain, and a sequence of stock upgrades. But it remains undervalued, according to Merrill Lynch, the US investment house. Merrill said that while the FTSE hit new highs, materials remained 28 per cent below its January 1994 nominal high

and construction fared little better at 16 per cent below its nominal high, attained ten years ago.

But the institutions have yet to share the bullishness of some analysts. Merrill said the top housebuilders such as Wimpey, unchanged at 157.5p, and Bellway, up 7p to 362p, looked good value. Countrywide Assured, the estate agent, 11.5p up to 155.5p, confirmed the strength of the housing market, but Merrill said the environment for materials remained more difficult.

Buyers came for Boots, 27p up at 834p, after a leading European investment bank advised clients to switch into the stock from Kingfisher, off 25p to 865p. The house pointed out that Boots had underperformed the market by 50 per cent over the past six months.

A statement from the annual meeting of Lloyds TSB, saying that profits were ahead in the first quarter of 1999, was offset by off-the-cuff remarks from the senior executive team that the regulatory environment was turning against mega-mergers. The shares closed down 17p to 10.43.

Allied Domecq moved up 18p to 485p after a report in The Times revealed that the company has put a sale sign over its John Bull pub

business.

A revival of bid speculation boosted Lloyds to 167.5p, while St James Place advanced 5p to 285p despite denying speculation that Prudential is about to offer 400p a share for the financial services holding company.

David S Smith continued to look healthy, adding 10p to 133p on continued expectations of a takeover attempt. Specification of a bid from US group Wal-Mart also lifted Safeway, the supermarket, 10p to 261.5p.

Middlesex Holdings, a metal and financial services group where Lord Owen is chairman, managed a 59 per cent jump or huge volumes of 13.4 million after saying that Russian bad debt provisions will result in significant losses for 1998. However, the shares are still only worth 1.08p.

Scoot.com, the loss-making telephone and Internet consumer information service, yesterday agreed to buy Diva Solutions, an Internet and intranet development company. Scoot.com said that the terms of the deal would be disclosed when the deal had been completed. The news caused shares to rise 5p to 37p.

GLIT-EDGED: Gilt prices were mixed amid low volumes and an absence of US economic data. The June series of the long gilt was 10p down at 111.78, while among conventional issues, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 gained 2p to 104.69.

NEW YORK: US blue-chips surged to fresh records in early trading. At midday the Dow Jones Industrial average was up 59.11 to 10,454.12.

Source: Bloomberg

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	-10454.12 (+53.11)
S&P Composite	1348.19 (-1.83)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	16744.68 (+49.52)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11824.13 (+65.96)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	543.80 (+2.81)
Sydney:	
ASX	3088.2 (+11.19)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	5182.16 (+17.02)
Singapore:	
Straits	1702.73 (+22.75)
Brussels:	
Euro 120	330.86 (+3.21)
Paris:	
CAC-40	4342.26 (-18.15)
Zurich:	
SMI index	7378.2 (+12.01)
London:	
FT 30	4002.91 (+16.76)
FTSE 100	5493.5 (-19.5)
FTSE 250	2084.1 (-2.2)
FTSE Europe 100	3619.22 (-16.06)
FTSE All-Share	2903.33 (+1.93)
FTSE Non Financials	2882.25 (+1.06)
FTSE Fixed Interest	153.47 (-0.06)
FTSE Govt Bonds	114.12 (-0.07)
Bangkok:	
SEAX Volume	1,129.5m
Malaysia:	MT 16 (+1.06)
Euro	1.6983 (+1.0009)
CSX	1.1891
Exchange Index	180.01 (-0.2)
Bank of England official rates (April)	
BP	183.7 (2.15) Jan 1987 - 190.0
BP	182.3 (2.48) Jan 1987 - 180.0

## TEMPUS

## Nagging doubts over ICI

ICI was the strongest-rising share in the FTSE 100 yesterday, courtesy of the latest suggestion that its drawn-out disposal programme is nearing a conclusion. The group is supposed to be about to sell some of its industrial chemicals and materials businesses to Huntsman, a family controlled US company.

Relief apart, does this justify the 8 per cent rise in the share price to 635.5p? The Huntsman family has a reputation for making large charitable donations, but it is unlikely to make any in the direction of ICI's impoverished shareholders. Huntsman is known for paying smart prices for chemical businesses at the bottom of the cycle.

Contrastingly, ICI is known for paying top dollar. It paid £5 billion to Unilever two years ago in a deal that was supposed to transform

it into a specialty chemicals business. For a while it all seemed so simple, and the shares wafted up to £12.44 on the potential in perfumes and flavours. That was before investors noticed the debt mountain and the downturn in the chemicals industry, and before ICI had the misfortune to have three big disposals blocked by US competition worries.

Even if it can squeeze £1.7 billion out of Huntsman, the group's debt will remain substantial at around £2.5 billion. Enough problems remain to leave cash generation looking sticky, and that threatens investment in ICI's future. Moreover, a dividend cut looks on the cards when the company finally fights its way out from under its debts.

ICI's shares have been tracking the market these past few months, but too many uncertainties remain to make them attractive.

## Eurotunnel

NEWS about the growth of Eurotunnel's telecoms business is encouraging. But the numbers are still very small and it would be easy to get carried away.

Eurotunnel Telecoms, however, is significant for what it says about the company's ambitions. It shows that now the horrendous construction phase is past, Eurotunnel can build an extended business around its core asset.

Telecoms has great potential and Eurotunnel may well be able to do an Energis — albeit on a more modest scale. More interesting is Eurotunnel's desire to develop a distribution network for Europe. The Internet may be a fantastic marketing and order-laying tool. But logistics firms — which transport the Internet-ordered goods — should be among the first to benefit

from the superhighway in terms of concrete profitability. Good news can only flow from the current angst of UK railway drivers, too. If they are driven from the road altogether, or to base themselves on the Continent, rail networks and Eurotunnel will benefit.

The attractions of the Eurotunnel equity stock was highlighted in Tempus last July.

Since then, the value has grown 45 per cent. Despite this it remains worth buying, although more sophisticated investors may prefer to look at Eurotunnel debt. Parts trade at a fraction of par value yet Eurotunnel is slowly redeeming that debt at par. As the business grows stronger and broader the redemption programme will be bolstered.

Source: Bloomberg

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Moreover, with interest cover of 8.5 times, Gardner has scope for debt-funded acquisitions. The strength of its paper also gives it the option of asking equity investors to help fund a major purchase.

Gardner shares trade on a forward p/e ratio of 12. With shares having run from 248p to 357.5p in the last six months, the price may consolidate for a period. Nevertheless, buy for the long term.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

sure already, and exposure could be better enhanced with the acquisition of a holding home or a flat to rent.

With Delaney offering nothing but its own shares in consideration, Greycat shareholders would be swapping one unattractive share for another if they embraced this bid.

Greycat shareholders can look forward to better pickings as its management looks for more satisfactory alternative exits. Reject the Delaney approach.

L Gardner

BRITAIN'S engineers have paid heavily for the push by major customers to cut costs and reduce the number of suppliers they deal with. But the rationalisation process is producing some winners. L Gardner is one of them.

Gardner is benefiting, but it is often forced to accept lower margins in return for increased volumes. Yet while constant pressure is exerted

on its margins, the prospects for volume growth is rosy. Much of Gardner's success flows from Rolls-Royce, which is continuing to win business supplying Boeing and Airbus. The anticipated slowdown in the civil aerospace industry over the next two to four years could be grounds for concern. However, Gardner says organic growth is assured by Rolls' market strength and an expected increase in aerospace equipment spending.

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# OECD urges Japan to speed up reforms

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

THE Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development yesterday urged Japan to speed up its efforts at structural reform if the country is to escape a period of prolonged economic stagnation and high unemployment.

In a damning survey of the country's efforts at regulatory reform, the OECD gave warning that Japan faces decades of weak economic performance unless it undertakes root and branch economic reform.

"Without further reform, any economic recovery in Japan will likely be fragile and short-lived, and unem-

ployment will remain high," the report said.

The warning came as new figures showed Japanese corporate bankruptcy debts reaching record proportions in 1998, as a result of a spectacular series of business failures.

The OECD report, which was commissioned by the Japanese Government, said that while external shocks and cyclical factors had played a role in Japan's problems, the real blame lay for the country's economic malaise with an "outmoded regulatory and institutional framework".

The OECD claimed that if total productivity growth does not benefit significantly from reforms, the potential growth of the Japanese economy

would fall to 1 per cent over the next decade and then decline to just 0.5 to 0.75 per cent. This would result in Japanese GDP per capita slipping from about 25 per cent above the levels in the European Union to some 20 per cent behind the EU average over the next 25 years.

Although Japan has taken steps to reform its economy, including reducing Government intervention in various key sectors, a sharp break with past practices was still needed if Japan is to build a recovery.

However, to date, Japan has opted for a piecemeal and incremental approach to reform because it suffers from a "deeply conservative policy process that slows decision-making.

discourages open policy debate, encourages clientelism and allows special interests to block needed change".

The OECD called on the Japanese Government to take a comprehensive look at all sectors of the economy and, in particular, introduce competition into the transport, energy, telecommunication and property sectors. Japan also has to improve its record for administrative accountability and competition policy, the report said.

Debt left by Japanese corporate bankruptcies rose by 0.4 per cent to 15.18 trillion yen (£79 billion), said Teikoku Databank, a credit research firm. The bankruptcy debt was swollen by the collapse of 18 firms with lia-

bilities exceeding 100 billion yen, among them several large non-bank financial institutions.

They included Japan Leasing Corp and NCB Mortgage Co, the respective affiliates of the failed Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan and Nippon Credit Bank. The two debt-ridden banks were put under government control last year, in an effort by Japanese regulators to get the nation's wobbly banking system back on its feet.

The credit research firm said it expects more firms to go to the wall in coming months. Despite rock-bottom interest rates, banks seeking to shore up their capital base continue to turn away firms that want to borrow.

## Co-op first to offer Isas at the checkout

By CAROLINE MERRELL BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CO-OPERATIVE BANK yesterday signalled a closer relationship with the Co-op supermarket chain by unveiling two financial initiatives to be delivered at the stores.

The Co-op is to become the first supermarket to offer the individual savings account at the checkout — a method of distribution deemed to be too expensive for other leading supermarkets such as Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer.

The bank is to pilot the scheme at 150 stores in Scotland. The Isa is to be marketed through this method will be based on cash, Mervyn Pedley, Co-Operative Bank chief executive, said: "Shoppers will be able to invest their spare change directly into the Isa."

The bank is also planning to

roll out 350 new automatic teller machines at Co-op stores over the next two years.

Mr Pedley estimated that having the cash machines in the supermarkets could push up sales by 2 per cent.

The cash machines are going in to stores in the North West and in Yorkshire, in places that are deemed to be cash-machine deserts," he said.

Mr Pedley pointed out that all banking customers would soon be able to use the machines because the UK's biggest banks had joined the Link network.

The move to greater integration came as Co-op announced record profits of £73.6 million, up 34 per cent on the 1997 figure of £55 million.

Mr Pedley said that the rise in profits had been achieved by increasing customers by 15 per cent to 1.8 million, and by reducing the cost/income ratio to 68 per cent from 75 per cent previously.

Mr Pedley said: "I am particularly pleased to report the improvement in our cost/income ratio, which is an indication of our increased efficiency."

Mr Pedley also revealed that the bank intended to re-enter the mortgage market later this year. It withdrew from the market in the early Nineties because it represented only a small part of its business.

"The time is now right, and there is a big gap in our product range," he said.

Mr Pedley is looking at ways of integrating financial services in to all companies that are members of the CWS co-operative group.

He is chairman of a committee looking at providing financial products to customers of the CIS, the insurance company, Co-op Travelcare and several other Co-op societies.

Bifu, the finance union, said that the increased profits announced by the bank were due in part to Bifu's social partnership deal with the bank.

The stock closed 18½p lower yesterday.

Action has said it is in takeover talks with a foreign company thought to be seeking an expansion into Europe.

George Laplante, managing director, said the company was planning to broaden its product mix in an attempt to cut its exposure to the volatile personal computer market.

An interim dividend of 1.35p was declared (1.25p).

## NET PROFITS

[www.times-money.co.uk](http://www.times-money.co.uk)



Take off: Stansted airport was a big success for BAA, recording a 35 per cent increase in the number of passengers

## BAA sees growth in numbers

By ROBERT LEA

THE advent of cheap flights to the Continent and the Republic of Ireland helped BAA to shepherd eight million more passengers through its seven airports in the past 12 months, a rise of 7.6 per cent year on year.

BAA, which operates London's three busiest airports, three airports in Scotland, as well as Southampton, said

that more than 40 per cent of the increase in the year to March 31 was on scheduled flights to Europe. About a quarter of the rise was accounted for by an increase in North American traffic, which was boosted by more competitive fares.

The biggest growth market was flights to the Irish Republic, however, which were up 13 per cent year on year, although from a lower base.

The company said: "This reflects the buoyant economic performance of Ireland and the highly competitive air service environment."

Over the financial year, Stansted was the big growth story with its number of passengers increasing by 35 per cent — or accounting for a fifth in increased traffic across all BAA airports. Traffic at Heathrow — which accounts for about half of BAA's passengers

— increased by nearly 5 per cent while Gatwick, about the half the size of Heathrow, saw growth of 8 per cent.

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— increased by nearly 5 per cent while Gatwick, about the half the size of Heathrow, saw growth of 8 per cent.

## Bid talks boost Polypipe shares

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

SHARES in Polypipe rose by almost one fifth yesterday after the diversified building materials group revealed it has entered bid talks with a mystery suitor. The company said that if made, the offer would value the company at £330 million, or 200p per share, representing a premium of 27 per cent on the closing share price before bid talks were announced.

One analyst, who did not want to be named, said: "Polypipe has traditionally had a strong position in the UK plastic pipes sector as one of the producers with the lowest costs and an extremely diverse

customer base. Whereas others in the sector might sell direct to manufacturers, Polypipe has around 3,000 local accounts and has therefore been able to sustain strong margins. Whether or not a bid at this level is sufficiently tempting for shareholders is another story."

Shares in Polypipe more than halved in value last year after stocks in the plumbing and heating sector fell out of favour in the City. Since then they have risen steadily to Tuesday's closing price of 157p. Shares yesterday closed up 29p at 186p.

## Acquisitions fuel Gardner increase

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

LGARDNER GROUP, the engineering company that supplies the aerospace and automotive industries, has reported a 62 per cent rise in interim profit before tax and exceptional costs to £4.1 million.

The increase was fuelled by acquisitions, although there was also a rise in orders from clients such as Rolls-Royce.

Analysts said that the growth prospects for some of Gardner's key markets and the increased predictability of its earnings were behind yesterday's 16½p increase in the share price to 358p.

Andrew Fox, deputy chief executive, said that Gardner was benefiting from the rationalisation underway within the engineering sector. He added that Gardner could afford to make the capital investment needed to meet the cost-cutting target of its customers.

"Our customers are looking to work with fewer suppliers," Mr Fox said.

He said Rolls-Royce was in the throes of cutting its component providers from 800 to 200 and other aerospace and automotive companies were adopting a similar strategy.

An interim dividend of 3p was declared, up from 2.7p.

## Banks to 'axe one third' of branches

By FRAN LITTLEWOOD

UP TO a third of the UK's high street bank branches will have shut down by 2005 as banks cash in on cut-price distribution models and millions of people switch to online banking services, a report on the industry has predicted.

More than half of 200 banking executives surveyed by Deloitte Consulting, the management consulting firm, said

new channels, such as the Internet and call centres, were central to their sales and marketing strategy. As a result as many as 3,600 of the 11,000 existing branches today would be redundant.

John Reeve, partner at Deloitte, said: "The whole driver for this is low-cost provision. If you look at the economics of it, it is not surprising at all."

As competition heats up, with new entrants such as Egg, the savings arm of

Prudential, snatching significant market share, the sector is being forced to look at ways of reducing costs by cutting back staff and outlets.

Deloitte, however, said that people should not see the demise of high street banking as a threat since there will be considerable savings for them as the cost of providing financial services falls.

Mr Reeve said he expects to see the full-service bank branches phased out

to be replaced in the short to medium term by automated or "stripped down" outlets.

Andy McKechnie, head of new product development for personal banking at Lloyds Bank, said: "Customers want the Internet as a distribution channel. We have established the channel, but it is still very immature. It has got to get faster and more comprehensive before you can even say this is a substitute."

## Tracking the broadcast of video press releases

Global media exposure can be monitored, says Chris Ayres

WHEN Ford bought Kwik-Fit on Monday for £1 billion, television footage of Jacques Nasser, the US car company's president, and Sir Tom Farmer, head of Kwik-Fit, was immediately beamed around the world by hundreds of different broadcasters.

The footage was filmed for Ford by Medialink, the US media group that specialises in producing video and audio "press releases" for corporate clients. However, it is still difficult for companies such as Ford to track where and when such footage is shown throughout the world. That is because multinationals have to rely on so-called "media trackers" sitting in front of television screens all day, every day, to monitor their global media exposure.

According to Medialink, however, this notoriously hit-and-miss method of tracking television exposure is about to be changed by its latest product, TeleFax.

The product — based on software developed by Lucent Technologies, the US telecoms equipment company — "watermarks" electronically video footage produced by Medialink for its corporate clients. Whenever watermarked footage is broadcast, it sends out a signal that can be picked up by Medialink's receivers, or "listening posts". The receivers then send the information back to the company's headquarters via the Internet. Clients can then access the data on the Net, or receive reports via e-mail.

Larry Isley, intellectual property director at Lucent, says: "The technology behind TeleFax ensures that the encoded marker cannot be altered, removed or detected by third parties, nor will it interfere with the quality of the broadcast signal."

Although watermarking has been used to track television output in the US for some time, Medialink's product is thought to be the first that is compatible with international television technology standards.

Laurence Moskowitz, Medialink's president and chief executive, says: "Medialink is in the process of setting up listening posts, first throughout Europe, then around the



Moskowitz: "Medialink is setting up listening posts"

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## ACCOUNTANCY

# Find the entrepreneur inside

A wider view of the world is vital to ensuring that the profession still counts, says Michael Prior

**E**veryone is talking about it and millions are doing it. Some start very young and enthusiastically, others come to it more cautiously later in life. Some, sadly, fail; others reach heights they had scarcely dreamt possible. I am, of course, talking about entrepreneurship.

An entrepreneurial approach has been at the root of the accountancy profession's phenomenal growth this century. Accountancy practices have responded to clients' needs and entered new areas of business as opportunities have arisen, and accountants working in business have diversified in many directions through building on their initial training.

If we are to remain at the heart of the business community in the new millennium, it is essential that accountants, regardless of whether they are in practice or in business, whether they are operating in a global environment or a local one, or whether they are in the private or the public sector, see themselves as entrepreneurs.

We must help to create new business opportunities, adapting to the constantly changing marketplace and adding value for clients and employers. In Darwinian terms, the survival of the species will depend on it. Many see accountants as the antithesis of the entrepre-

neur: overcautious, risk-averse and more interested in keeping the past score than in helping to create future wealth. We must remodel our image and, where necessary, change our approach so that we are recognised as balancing a healthy risk appetite with a reputation for managing risks and for offering robust, independent advice without fear or favour.

In a competitive market economy, profits are the reward for successful risk-taking, and no matter how much analysis you do, you cannot escape the uncertainty of the future. When involved in business decisions, we must be seen as valued members of the team, scoring runs and making catches, rather than as armchair supporters explaining after the event how our team could have performed better.

We are not all cut out to be a Darren Gough or a Brian Lara, but our profession produces its fair share of business leaders who take risks to expand their business or their practice. We should hold these up as role models for our students and younger members and find ways of bringing the two groups together so that our leading entrepreneurs can help to inspire succeeding generations.

The mission of the Insti-



Michael Prior says accountants need a healthy risk appetite

tute's new Centre for Business Performance is to advance thinking and practice on performance enhancement and value creation and to encourage consideration of new ideas by entrepreneurs and others. Promoting successful entrepreneurship and developing the world-class business will lie at the heart of the centre's work.

We want to build on an earlier project that confirmed that clients want their external accountants to be business advisers

as well as compliance experts. In addition, we wish to consider further how to identify the early-warning signals of a business entering dangerous waters. In the early years of many businesses, threats to its survival and opportunities for growth all too often go hand in hand unless there is effective cash management.

When providing business advice, we must recognise that the process of value creation and performance management has

ers as well as compliance experts.

changed dramatically in recent years, driven by the growing importance of human and intellectual capital.

These assets may be invisible on many balance sheets, but they are very real nevertheless and need to be nurtured carefully if they are to reach their potential. Moreover, in seeking to improve sustainable performance, it will often be far better to focus on how revenue can be increased by better addressing customers' needs than continually to cut costs, long seen as the accountants' obsession.

Capturing value for the business, in this world of highly interactive relationships with customers, staff, suppliers and the wider community, now involves managing the business by reference to a wider range of financial and non-financial measures of performance than we used in the past.

Furthermore, as entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial advisers, we must see technology as a friend and enabler, as opposed to a threat to our traditional way of doing things. It is creating opportunities for new services, new means of selling existing ones, more efficient communications and new space-lean ways of working.

In today's world, time is of the essence. We must, therefore, embark on our new entrepreneurial journey now.

**M**ichael Prior is chairman of the Centre for Business Performance of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales and of the North Region of KPMG Peat Marwick.

IT IS only a few weeks ago that Robin Cook-Hurle, as he puts it, "trousered" several million pounds by selling the Taxsoft business he founded to Sage, that giant of the accounting software business.

The good news is that it is closer to the Murrayfield rugby ground. The bad news is that it will be next door to the Inland Revenue. But the clincher for Scottish members will probably be that the move will cost them nothing at all, financially that is.

He stayed on as chap in charge, keeping contacts happy and expertise intact. But then last Thursday he cleared his desk, "happily and amicably". As it happens to such entrepreneurs, he had found, as the euphemism goes, that it is difficult working for someone else.

**T**AXING times

THE global span between the two warring chunks of the Arthur Andersen empire grows more bizarre by the day. As the dispute grinds slowly through the arbitration proc-

ess, the war of words has grown. Andersen Consulting has been making gruff and beligerent noises about how its dastardly one-time accounting twin, Arthur Andersen, has started to compete in the consulting market.

But now Andersen may itself have a complaint about Andersen Consulting opening up a competing line of service. Rumour has it that Andersen Consulting is opening up a tax practice.

ROBERT BRUCE

## Cold feet and self-interest mix to produce a classic muddle at the ICA

**T**he article scheduled to run alongside the column this week was to have been unique. It was to have been written by all three of the English ICA office-holders: the president, Chris Swinson of BDO Stoy Hayward; deputy president Dame Sheila Masters of KPMG; and vice-president Graham Ward of PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Given the considerable bulk of two of those there had been speculation that the size of photograph necessary would have meant no room for any text. In fact there is no text for another reason. Once more the council of the English institute has decided that it could not support its leadership. The key document *Strategy for the 21st Century* has now been delayed, possibly until the 22nd century.

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ment feels that there is "a need to encourage improvement of performance". And that is code for some going bust if they don't come up to scratch and manage to finance themselves. To the past there has been little direction. District societies would complain that it was all the fault of central funding and planning if things were going wrong and exult that it was all due to their wonderful autonomy if things were going swimmingly.

Something has needed to be done for years. But the institute is terrified of its members. Whenever the institute suggests anything, members sink their teeth into the hand that feeds them. So reform had been shelved. Now the three officeholders felt strong and committed enough to go for change. Hence the document.

There is logic in it, which is why council agreed it earlier in the year. But, as word of its contents leaked out to the rank and file, they became furious and, in the words of one senior council member, "freaked out". A succession of council members were hauled back to their district societies to be asked how they could possibly have agreed to the document. Most of the council members decided the safest route was to take the "it wasn't me" line.

Hence the defeat for the officeholders at last week's meeting. But even at the eleventh-hour the officeholders should have won the day. But, unfortunately, it was Dame Sheila Masters who led the debate. "She does," said one council member, "have an ability to infuriate people. Several people who started the debate as wavering had become total opponents half an hour later."

At the end of the month there is a residential conference of senior district society people. It will all be spelt out again. But there will be a lot of emotive behaviour if the strategy is to continue. Meanwhile, morale in the institute is predictably low. The announcement that yet another troupe of consultants has arrived on the premises to decide what is to be done about the "brand" of chartered accountants has not improved things. What is needed is for someone to decide that if inaction is what members want then that is what they should have.



ROBERT  
BRUCE

## Queen Street sell-out beckons

**T**HE English ICA members may be up in arms over the possible dismantling of their district societies. However, no one is sure what will happen next north of the border.

Members of the Scots ICA are about to hear that it has decided that, after 107 years in their great and grey headquarters in Queen Street, Edinburgh, they should sell it and build afresh elsewhere. A

muddy site has been acquired near the Haymarket railway station and work will begin soon.

The good news is that it is closer to the Murrayfield rugby ground. The bad news is that it will be next door to the Inland Revenue. But the clincher for Scottish members will probably be that the move will cost them nothing at all, financially that is.

## Robin the rich

IT IS only a few weeks ago that Robin Cook-Hurle, as he puts it, "trousered" several million pounds by selling the Taxsoft business he founded to Sage, that giant of the accounting software business.

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**MUSIC**  
Alfred Brendel  
on the glory  
of Beethoven  
PAGE 38

# THE TIMES ARTS

**THEATRE**  
Bemstein's  
Candide staged  
at the National  
PAGE 39



**CINEMA:** As Tony Harrison's couplets hit the big screen, Geoff Brown muses on the marriage of stanzas and celluloid

## Poetry in motion pictures

**S**o what is on the movie menu this week? Would you believe a snooty Greek god touring Yorkshire and Eastern Europe spouting rhyming couplets along with a wheezing ex-miner, lungs lost to coal dust and tags? "How can Olympus stay intact," the god sneers, "if poetry comes to Pontefract?"

Not just Pontefract. In Tony Harrison's *Prometheus* (see review, right) modern poetry could actually be coming to a cinema near you. Harrison's other "film poems", 12 in number, have been made for the BBC and Channel 4. This is the first shaped for the cinema: an overlong but striking piece that muses bitterly on the recent experience of the working class and mankind's abuse of the gift of fire as the new millennium beckons.

The couplets are delivered with a haughty sneer by Prometheus's voice on earth. Michael Feast: "And why, you might ask, should gods come into this world of 'Ee-yum'?" For Harrison, there is no alternative. His mission is to bring the poetic muse into every corner of life, from the theatres where plays like *The Trimmers of Oxyrhynchus* are performed to cinema screens and the amazed mouth of Walter Sparrow's old-time miner ("Them Tories twisting and two-timing... / That's got me at it, bloody rhyming").

But how fruitful is cinema as a vehicle for poetry? The published text of *Prometheus* includes selections from Harrison's notebooks, headed by a sweeping remark of the Italian director Pier Paolo Pasolini: "To make films is to be a poet." Is James Cameron, then, the Milton of the age? I don't think so; though a broad distinction between prose and poetry can be useful in separating off the commercial aspirations of mainstream cinema from the personal approach of those dedicated to film as an art — the Tarkovskys and Bergmans who sculpt their images the way a poet shapes words.

Harrison's notes give only random consideration to marriages past, present and future between poetry and cinema. Perhaps, in honour of *Prometheus*, we can dig a little further. Most obviously, we may note some famous films about poets: *Tom and Viv*, for in-

stance, which tenderly chronicled the marriage of the Eliots; *Regeneration*, a powerful screen adaptation of Pat Barker's novel about Siegfried Sassoon's rehabilitation after his First World War experiences; and, on a lighter note, *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*, charting the courtship of Elizabeth Barrett by Robert Browning.

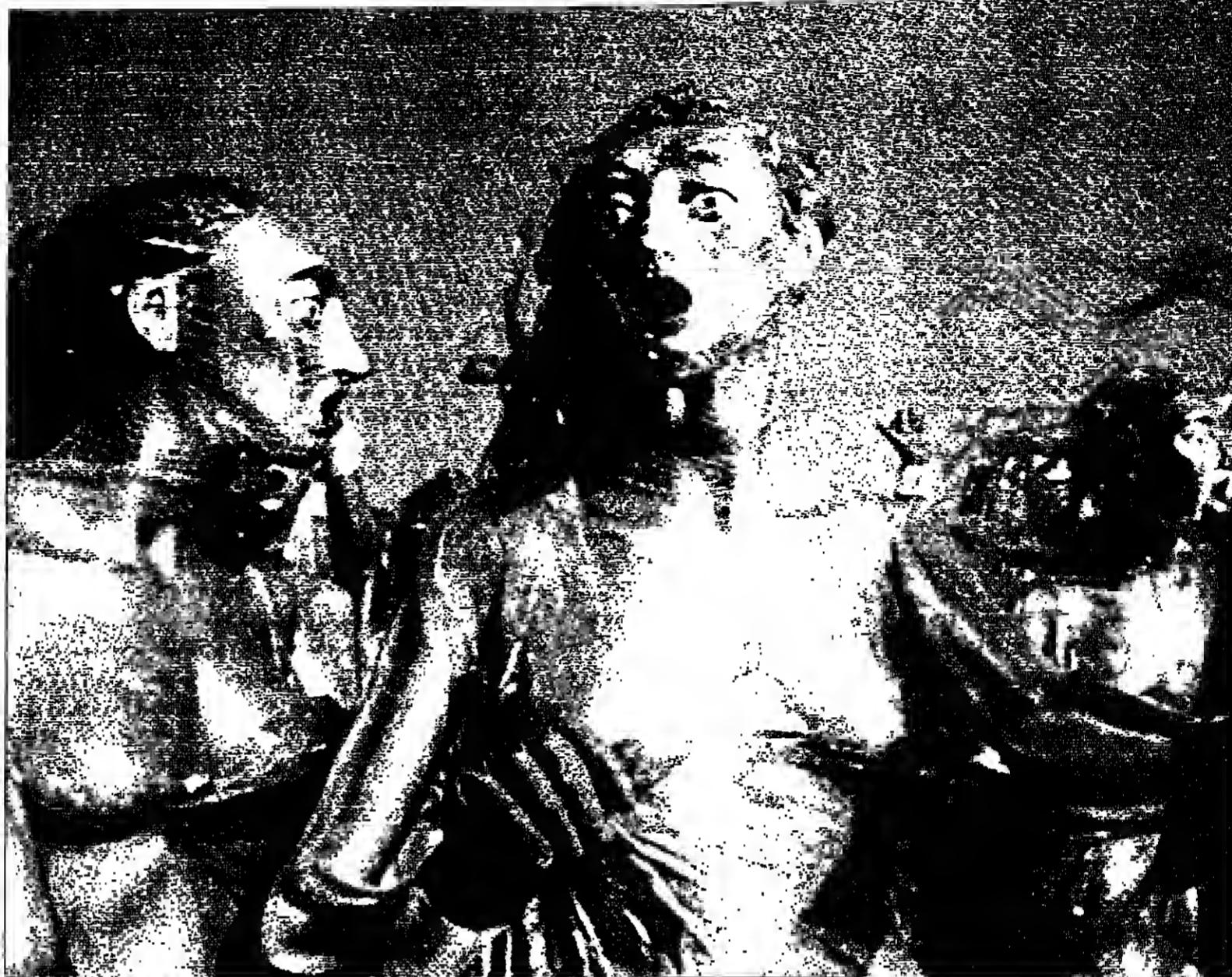
But such films are more concerned with recalling poets' loves and lives than interacting with their words. When it comes to the latter, there seem to be three principal degrees of union. The most tangential, though the most popular with the public, is the quotation of verse by a film's characters.

Such films draw only on the poem's storyline. Unless one is Derek Jarman, turning Shakespeare sonnets into *Angelic Conversations*, the business of mixing a poem's stylistic substance with the matter of cinema is usually beyond their makers' grasp or ambition.

**B**ut the fun only starts when poet and filmmaker look underneath any surface narrative and try fusing the art forms, perhaps mixing poetic metres with the rhythm of film editing. Early in the century, particularly, poets themselves quickly appreciated the new medium's potential for creative expression. In America Vachel Lindsay wrote a pioneering study, "The Art of the Moving Picture", linking film to Egyptian hieroglyphics.

The poets who really got carried away by cinema, however, lived in France. Surrealist spirits like Robert Desnos and Philippe Soupault contrived film scenarios deliriously alive to cinema's potential for bizarre juxtapositions, the logic of dreams.

In Britain, by contrast, film poetry led a humbler life, often tethered to the documentary and the sponsored short. Was Auden's heart truly stoned in the 1930s by writing scripts for the GPO Film Unit about coalmining and night mail trains? Still, he dutifully wrote his verse, lyrical or incantatory,



Iron maidens: daughters of the ocean do their thing in *Prometheus* as Tony Harrison pursues his mission to bring the poetic muse into every corner of life

W.H. Auden's poem found a new lease of life once *Stop All The Clocks* was quoted in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. Robin Williams awoke his classroom charges (and, one suspects, some cinema audiences) to the hitherto closed book of English literature by declaiming some choice stanzas in *Dead Poets Society*, and in the recent *Pleasantville* the discovery of Wordsworth by repressed teenagers trapped in a 1950s sitcom is one of the catalysts that changes their world.

Going further back, John Pudney's tender salute to war

carefully cut to the images, matched to music composed by Britten. Later, Humphrey Jennings offered a poet's view of Britain at war through miraculous fusions of word, image and sound. In America the emerging underground cinema of the 1940s and 1950s gave film poets a wider playground, ideal for the creation of sexual psycho-dramas decked with symbols, very much shot in the first person singular.

But those were and remain films for the ghetto. *Prometheus* hopes to reach the general audience, though timid exhibitors will no doubt restrict its chances. In the light of history, Harrison's union of poetry and cinema is comparatively plain. Words and images run side by side but avoid any fancy dance steps.

Perhaps on reflection this is just as well. Narrative cinema is a public art, which needs a projector, a screen and a full house to flourish. The best of poetry needs an armchair, a reader's eyes and imagination, and a pool of silence. These are things not often available at the Odeon.

## Excellent Queen Bess

### ■ ELIZABETH

*PolyGram, 15, 1998*

THE British costume drama gets a vigorous kick in the pants in Shekhar Kapur's bold and award-winning account of the reign of Elizabeth I. Aussie actress Cate Blanchett tackles the main role with aplomb, growing through her scenes from an uncertain young woman yanked onto the throne into a formidable creature too aware of her qualities to be governed by any man. Geoffrey Rush leads the supporting cast as Sir Francis Walsingham, man of mystery; Christopher Eccleston and Fanny Ardant also make strong impressions. Available to rent.

### ■ NEW RELEASES ON VIDEO



Cate Blanchett makes a winning Elizabeth I

### ■ POODLE SPRINGS

*Mosaic, 12, 1998*  
A PHONE call from a fellow private eye ends in gunshots. The next thing you know, Philip Marlowe (James Caan, well-cast) is being arrested for obstructing justice and being "stupider than three sheep". Tom Stoppard wrote the script for this cable TV adaptation of Raymond Chandler's unfinished novel, although he never jumps over the plot's main hurdle: how can we believe that this world-weary private eye has got himself married to a billionaire's daughter? A rental release.

### ■ THE SPANISH PRISONER

*Fox Pathé, 15, 1997*  
AS SOMEONE says during this teasing entertainment, "Who in the world is what they seem?" Campbell Scott's scientist, inventor of a valuable new industrial process, is a sitting duck for a con trick, and writer-director David Mamet is just the man to spring one. This is a spry Hitchcockian thriller with an impressive performance from Steve Martin as a jet-setter, and a classy turn from Rebecca Pidgeon as the Girl Friday who might, like everyone else, not be quite what she seems. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

### COMPETITION



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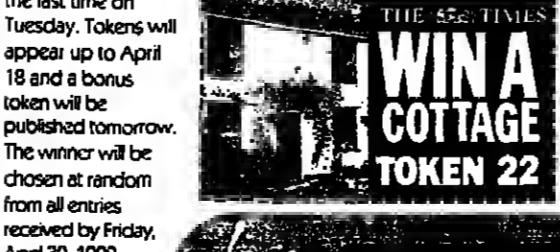
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CHANGING TIMES

"A return to form for the master Bertolucci" ★★★★  
Chris Roberts, *Entertainment Weekly*

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THE LAST EMPIRE

STARS CURZON MAYFAIR, CURZON CINEMA 1, CURZON CINEMA 2, CURZON CINEMA 3, CURZON CINEMA 4, CURZON CINEMA 5, CURZON CINEMA 6, CURZON CINEMA 7, CURZON CINEMA 8, CURZON CINEMA 9, CURZON CINEMA 10, CURZON CINEMA 11, CURZON CINEMA 12, CURZON CINEMA 13, CURZON CINEMA 14, CURZON CINEMA 15, CURZON CINEMA 16, CURZON CINEMA 17, CURZON CINEMA 18, CURZON CINEMA 19, CURZON CINEMA 20, CURZON CINEMA 21, CURZON CINEMA 22, CURZON CINEMA 23, CURZON CINEMA 24, CURZON CINEMA 25, CURZON CINEMA 26, CURZON CINEMA 27, CURZON CINEMA 28, CURZON CINEMA 29, CURZON CINEMA 30, CURZON CINEMA 31, CURZON CINEMA 32, CURZON CINEMA 33, CURZON CINEMA 34, CURZON CINEMA 35, CURZON CINEMA 36, CURZON CINEMA 37, CURZON CINEMA 38, CURZON CINEMA 39, CURZON CINEMA 40, CURZON CINEMA 41, CURZON CINEMA 42, CURZON CINEMA 43, CURZON CINEMA 44, CURZON CINEMA 45, CURZON CINEMA 46, CURZON CINEMA 47, CURZON CINEMA 48, CURZON CINEMA 49, CURZON CINEMA 50, CURZON CINEMA 51, CURZON CINEMA 52, CURZON CINEMA 53, CURZON CINEMA 54, CURZON CINEMA 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**LISTINGS**

Scottish Ballet in Glasgow

**RECOMMENDED TODAY**

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marti Hargreaves



Michael Tilson Thomas conducts at the Barbican

**LONDON**  
THE DISPUTE: A superb production by Neil Bartlett of his translation of Marmont's *Maurizio*, where four impressionist adolescents meet the world and each other for the first time. A co-production with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Lyric, W6 (0181-741 2811). Preview from tonight. T30pm. Opens Monday, 7.30pm.

**LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:** Under the baton of Michael Tilson Thomas the LSO puts on a programme with the opening accent on American music. After *Ives's* *The Unanswered Question* and *Ecclesiastes*, a piece by one-time avant-garde Carl Ruggles, there's time to go to grips with Bruckner's massive Ninth Symphony. Barbican (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm.

**MAURIZIO POLLINI:** The technically brilliant pianist turns his attention to Schubert as he tackles the complete cycle of the piano sonatas. The recital is part of the Harrogate International Piano Series. Festival Hall (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

**GEOMETRY OF MIRACLES:** In Robert Lepage's latest spectacle *Frank Lloyd Wright* offers the spiritual dimension of Gaudi's A somewhat muddled evening. Lyttelton (0171-452 3000). Opens tonight. 7pm.

**ELSEWHERE:**

**Glasgow:** Scottish Ballet opens its spring season with the world premiere of *Death of a Salesman* (also a new work by Peter Ruzicka) to the music of Bach. Designs are by the ubiquitous Liz Lenderston, who

collaborates with the inventive choreographer for the first time. Theatre Royal (0141-332 9000). Opens tonight. 7.15pm.

**LEEDS:** Natacha Berdejko directs *Karen Lawrence* Till's adaptation of Barry Hines' moving tale of the boy who finds inspiration nurturing a pony. Quarry (0113-213 7700). Opens tonight. 7.30pm.

**PLYMOUTH:** Staging here of *Candide*, Shaw's version of the conflict between the artistic and the materialised love. Drake (01752 257700). Preview tonight. 7.45pm. Opens tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**NEW WEST END SHOWS:**

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

**■ HOUSE full, returns only** **■ Some seats available** **■ Seats at half price**

**■ SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER:** Shelly Gell plays the venomous mother and Rachel Weisz the traumatised wife in the famous Tennessee Williams classic, now mounted at the Almeida. Cottesloe (0171-731 7311).

**■ CANDIDE:** Great fun in Bernstein's musical based on Voltaire. John Cairn and Trevor Nunn direct an excellent cast led by Daniel Evans, Alex Kelly and Simon Russell Beale. Sadler's Wells (0171-452 0000).

**■ MAMMA MIA!:** Musical based on the songs of Abba. Stephen Rea and Lesley Stokoe play mother and daughter on the eve of the girl's wedding. Phyllida Lloyd directs. Prince Edward (0171-227 4447).

**■ THE GOLDEN GAME:** David Tuten and Lucy Liou star in a romantic home-based card-playing style echo their sad lives. Fifth Banana directs a surprising Pulitzer winner. Savoy (0171-636 8888).

**■ THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE:** Richard Dreyfuss and

Marisa Tomei make their British stage debuts in Neil Simon's play about big city angst. Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-630 6000).

**■ GOOD:** C.P. Taylor's best play, tracing a man's gradual decline into working with the National Dance Company has a strong cast. Michael Grandage directs. Donmar (0171-369 1732).

**■ THE COLONEL BIRD:** Bulgarian author Hristo Boychev's award-winning play about an eastern town taken over by a Russian colonel. Robert Glendinning directs. Gate (0171-229 0709).

**■ BLOOD KNOT:** Barry Wallman and Gordon Case star in Attol Fu-pard's updated version of his celebrated black and white brothers play. Riverside Studios (0171-227 1111).

**■ TALE OF A CITY:** Life and a calamity in a Chinese city. Directed and memorized by Macedonian writer Goran Stavrovski, Sandy McElroy directs for Theatre Melange. Warehouse, Croydon (0181-680 4060).

**FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE**

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

**NEW RELEASES**

**A CIVIL ACTION** (19): Meaty courtroom drama from John Travolta and Edward Norton. In court and out, two sharks in a case of toxic dumping. Steven Zissman directs.

**BEDROOMS & HALLWAYS** (18): Playful romantic comedy about male bonding with Simon Callow splendid miscast as a heterosexual New Age Swango. Rose Troche directs.

**(19):** Robert Lepage's supple, black comedy forms a psychological odyssey of a woman (Audrey Couture) who falls in love with her boyfriend's best-making boyfriend. A teetering puzzle about politics and art.

**THE FACULTY** (15): Fishy sci-fi chiller with high comedy quota from Kevin Williamson. A faculty of schoolteachers get taken over by alien invaders. Director Robert Rodriguez flogs the parapsychic paranoia with salt-crunching wit.

**SLAM!** (15): Saul Williams puts in a sensational performance as a black rap poet caught up in the Washington prison system. A gritty documentary-style film by Mark Levin.

**SHIRT AND TIE** (15): Ally Sheedy and Rick Moranis have lots of gloom and doom in an upmarket photog-

raph magazine. Drugs, decadence, and Fastidious fail to illuminate Lisa Cholodenko's contemplated melodrama.

**ORAZIO GAZZINO** (18): Tube station elevators are more exciting than this gassy cartoon spoof on the Hollywood film industry. Ryker Paine stars, directs, and stars.

**CURRENT**

**TEA WITH MUSSOLINI** (PG): Flashes of history as a woman (Audrey Hepburn) is exposed to the English spinners who raised him in Florence before Mussolini galed them. With Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, and Judi Dench.

**PLUNKETT & MACLEAN** (15): John Scott's 16th-century swashbuckler is mildly amusing if you like being reminded of Robin Carlyle and Jonny Lee Miller.

**BLAST FROM THE PAST** (12): An intriguing comedy about a man (Brendan Fraser) released after 35 years in a nuclear bunker. Bill Kelly directs.

**THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER** (12): Charles Laughton's only stab at directing is a Tom Sawyer versus Spursey Badger. Robert Mitchum's crooked preacher is unforgettable.

**SWENSON'S SEMELE** (15): Ruth Ann Swenson's Semele is famous and she shows why in two aris-

**ARTS****CLASSICAL CDS**

A splendid Walton series



Benchmark of musical quality: Brendel's final recording of the Beethoven piano concertos is also his first ever with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

**F**or the fourth, and what he claims will be the last time, Alfred Brendel has tackled on record that formidable mountain range of the piano repertoire, the Beethoven concertos. The box set, just released by Philips, with the Vienna Philharmonic under Simon Rattle, certainly has all the makings of a definitive reading. Brendel's previous recordings included those with Haitink and Levine, but there is no disguising the special rapport that has evolved between him and Rattle over the past 20 years. It has now borne fruit in what Costa Pilavachi, president of Philips, describes as "one of the few recording projects that happened because it needed to happen".

The relationship with Rattle was "always a happy one", according to Brendel, "but the mutual understanding is now much greater and also the possibility to express things together". Brendel points out that Rattle now has much more experience in the Austro-German repertoire: "I was sometimes worried in the past that he conducted so many things that were not first class, and I am glad that over the past year he has focused more on the music that I think is in the centre of the repertoire."

To see Brendel and Rattle interacting in rehearsal in Vienna's Musikverein is to see two contrasting intelligences seeking common ground. "Do you mind if I take more time here?" Rattle asks. "No — as long as it's not too excessive," comes the reply. Good-natured banter of this sort demonstrates not only the high spirits of the performers but also how they confound expectation. When I observe that the conductor's thrust in conjunction with the pianist's reflectiveness gives rise to a creative tension, Brendel insists that "some of the thrusting forward is my doing — and he also can linger, I can tell you."

Nowhere are such modifications of the basic tempo more crucial than in the Fourth Concerto, where Brendel is convinced they have set down the finest of which they are capable. "The first movement needs that flexibility; it's so different from other first move-

ments Beethoven wrote. I cannot find another example where you get three episodes which only come once, which are never repeated, like glimpses into a different world. They have to be incorporated, and you cannot incorporate them if you go straight forward." That means slowing up? "Yes. I am looking for psychological time not metronomic time."

That flexibility is not something that can easily be taught. In fact, according to Brendel, younger players tend to keep stricter time, but "gradually learn to modify the tempo, hopefully without losing the necessary pulse. The pulse is like the heartbeat, which can stand a certain amount of elasticity. There is very rarely a rupture or a new start in Beethoven's music."

Such tempo modification in these performances is very subtle, so much so that one hardly notices it. "Well, that's how it should be," Brendel says.

Brendel's relationship with the Vienna Philharmonic goes back to 1955. But curiously they have never recorded together before, though the orchestra has made amends by appointing Brendel an honorary member. What he values above all with this elite band is the "continuity of timbre" arising from players being recruited locally and studying with orchestra principals.

This leads to a discussion of period instruments, from whose pungent asperities the honeyed opulence of the VPO could not be further. "When I

hear to hear a Beethoven concerto on the hammerklavier that makes any sense, in terms of what you want to hear in the main voices."

For a man as hungry to experience contemporary music as Brendel, his repertoire may seem surprisingly limited. He says that he admires enormously those players who can read and remember modern scores, but they are "like a man coming from Mars, with

different nerves, muscles and a brain totally unlike mine". He also alludes to a spinal problem that now prevents him from playing blockbusters such as the Liszt Sonata or even the Brahms concertos.

He is developing a productive relationship with the baritone Matthias Goerne, however. They are performing Schubert's *Winterreise* and *Schwanengesang* cycles in America this month, and bringing the former to London in May and to Edinburgh in August. Another new venture is chamber music with his 22-year-old cellist son Adrian. Performances of the two Mozart piano quartets are scheduled for New York and Chicago this month.

Limited though Brendel's repertoire may be these days, the pay-off is that there is no sharper intellect — allied to a quirky humour and a wide-ranging awareness of all things cultural — at large in the musical world today.

● *The Beethoven Concertos* are on Philips 462 781-2 (3 CDs). £38.99

**MUSIC: Alfred Brendel tells Barry Millington why he has recorded the piano concertos for the fourth time**

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## ■ DANCE

A fine Taiwanese debut

# Putting a fine Pangloss on wit

**I**t is quite an *auto-da-fé*. Light reidens, smoke thickens. Watched by gravely incanting prelates in scarlet, the cast cheekily squawks and gleefully screeches, capering in a circle, as if offering us a depraved version of *Ring-a-Roses*. And finally, over the ashes of a pyramid of heretics, hangs the bunched body of heretic, Pangloss, prophet of optimism.

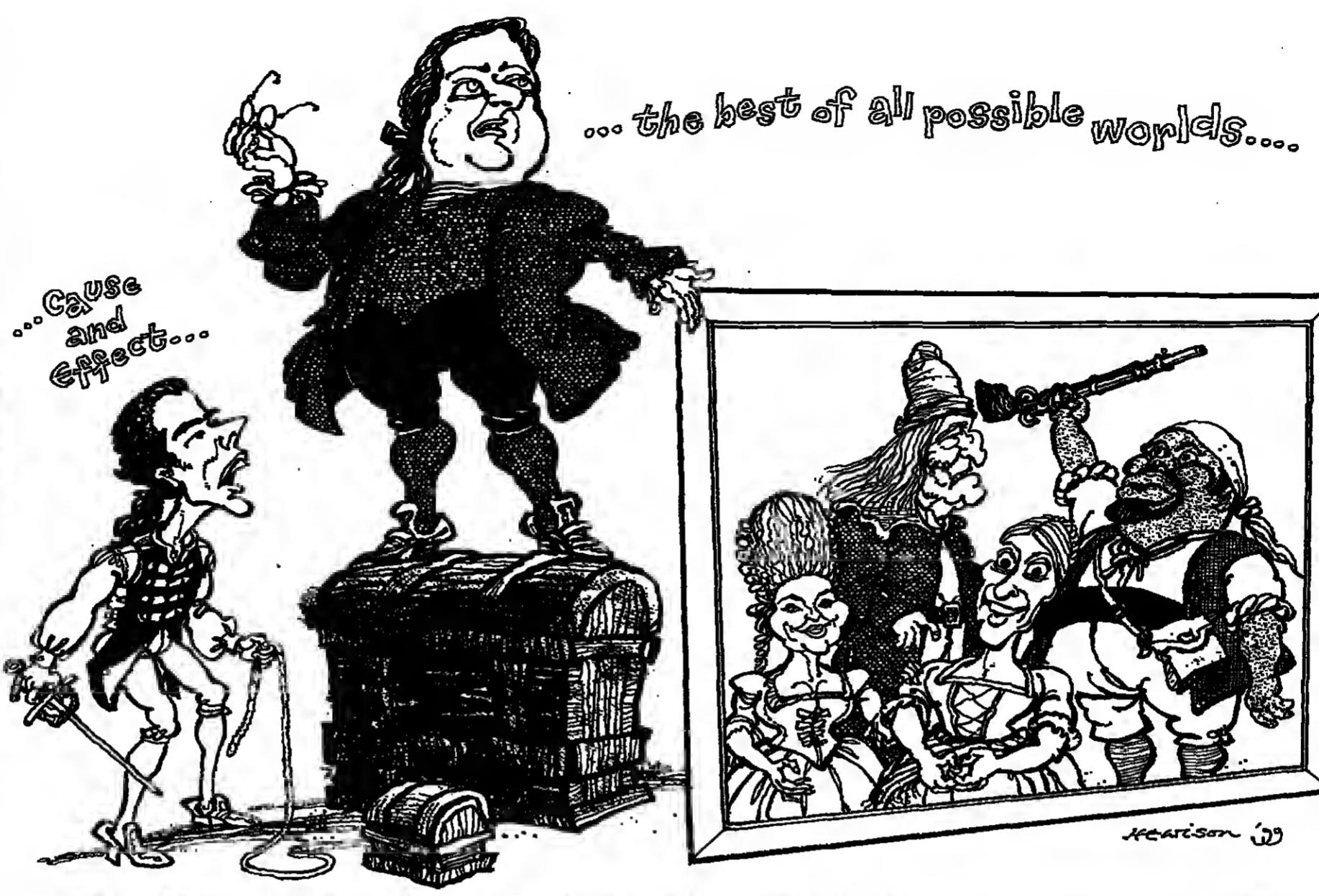
Ever since Leonard Bernstein and Lillian Hellman conceived the idea of a musical *Candide* in the mid-Fifties, hoping to assail an all-American cheeriness that seemed unassisted by the oppression of McCarthyism, productions of the show have by all accounts been getting less bland, more tough-minded: and, though it is sometimes too jokey for my taste, the revival that John Caird

has rescripted and himself directed gives us plenty of Voltaire's sardonic comedy and dry, wry outrage.

You could argue that if ever a satiric target has been pelted out of existence by time and circumstance, scientific discovery and philosophical scepticism, it is the notion that all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds. Where there was once a glaring bull's-eye there is now just a gaping hole.

But the thrust of the production is less the futility of unthinking optimism, more the absurd and exotic forms that human cruelty, greed and injustice take. Witness the battle scenes, not to mention Pangloss's argument that war is a wonderful way of achieving tribal unity: *Candide* has dated less than the Enlightenment-era costumes suggest.

John Caird (who credits Trevor Nunn as assistant director in the programme) takes us from castles in Westphalia to casinos in Venice via the Lisbon earthquake, escape from the Inquisition and Eldorado, in the simplest, sparsest way. Pretty well all that furnishes a shiny black circle is a series of chesses, representing everything from boats to graves; but it is enough especially with a cast capable of miming shipwreck, cannibal ritual and collective death on the



Six characters in search of Voltaire's best of all possible worlds: (from left) Daniel Evans, Simon Russell Beale, Alex Kelly, Denis Quilley, Beverley Klein and Clive Rowe

sypbilis ward in old Amsterdam. A pacy, picturesque story needs a narrator, and gets a fine one from Simon Russell Beale, who saunters the stage informing us of devastating evils in cool, incisive style. Then steps appear on his nose, his body sags into a sort of granny-knot, and it is Pangloss himself, desperately convincing himself of the beneficence of those ills. With Daniel

Evans's touching Candide — all nervy, tentative vowels and tiny, bird-like jerks of the head — the performance sustains the evening. There are other admirable ones from Simon Day and, as Candide's beloved Cunegonde, Alex Kelly. Indeed, Kelly performs marvels in terms both of disingenuous wit and high soprano notes with a bravura bite in which she piles pearls, dia-

monds and rouge on herself while denouncing worldly treasure. Bernstein's score is never as hummable as his *West Side Story* and (*the pessimistic Words, Words, Words* is an exception) could use more Weill and less Sullivan and Puccini in its make-up; but it embraces tango, martial chorus, liturgical chant and much else.

Revisions since 1956 mean that

seven people are credited as lyricists, among them Dorothy Parker, Richard Wilbur and even Stephen Sondheim, who has reportedly introduced several scathing new rhymes. The song in which a nob patronises the peasantry — "being well bred helps you deal with those who sell bread" — is surely his. But it is a pity that nobody put a stop to an ending which earnestly celebrates the vi-

tues of gardening — but does not mention the disillusioning miseries of the domestic life and love that Candide has spent the evening seeking. That must await still harsher, more Voltairean staging.

## BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

• This review appeared in late editions of The Times yesterday

## Hail the Aussie Adonis

If there is an art to singing badly, Bob Downe must count as one of the world's greats. Just when it seems he is going to get it right at last, the Australian king of easy listening can be relied on to gasp for breath in the wrong place or hit a note that is as garish as his many and varied safari suits.

In the wrong hands his *Million Sellers* show would amount to an extremely modest exercise in camp, ripe for a graveyard-hour series on Channel 5 but not much else. Anyone who caught quiz master Richard Whiteley's show in the same venue a while back will know exactly what I mean.

Fortunately, Downe's creator and alter ego, Mark Trevor, has woven a marvellously convincing character around the half-renditions of half-forgotten hits dredged up



from ancient editions of *Top of the Pops*. Ad libs blend effortlessly into the scripted monologues. Trevor, nesting under a helmet-like blond wig, veers cleverly between narcissism and dry self-deprecation.

The humour sagged only halfway through the second half when he allowed himself to be entangled in an unfidy and superfluous round of slaps with his "guest", Pastel Vespa, a supposedly half-Brazilian vocalist with a strong line in Astrud Gilberto impersonations. Her bizarre reworkings of the likes of *Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick* were charming enough, but we did not need to hear quite so many of them to get the point.

Her duets with the Aussie Adonis were much more acutely observed. With the resourceful one-man band Bob Thorne supplying all the right light entertainment touches on the keyboard, they indulged in the sort of wholesome dance steps that have not been seen since the Young Generation parted company with Rolf Harris. Downe's showbiz smile gapes as wide as his flared shirt collars, until he begins to suspect that Pastel is upstaging him.

The last time he played in London he put on a sparkling show at the Talk of London cabaret venue. The wider spaces of the Bloomsbury did not intimidate him. His ego needs all the room it can get.

CLIVE DAVIS

## Highest of the high art

**S**ome way into his solo show, John-Paul Zaccarini leaps on to the Circus Space stage sporting a vast pompadour, tight jeans and a bump and grind dance routine. In his left hand is a hairbrush, actually a microphone, into which he delivers a little high-energy pop hymn to the joys of being gorgeous.

"I am nothing but a spectacle," he sings, alluding to his adopted identity as a brainless hunk. For Zaccarini, this is a characteristic double bluff: *Throat* is constructed from a series of concealed identities, and in many ways it is also the central conceit of the show. Once one is aware of being a spectacle or conforming to some prescribed image, be it as a good-time boy, bored housewife or magic child, how pure can that identity be?

Zaccarini's exploration of identity takes him from the adopted perfection of a day-

graphed and exciting to watch: Zaccarini thinks nothing of slamming his face down on to the floor or switching from affective catharsis to sweet comedy at the least appropriate moments. Predictably it is the aerial work that steals the show, from the whorish showtime routine to the image of Zaccarini balancing in the tangle of a high rope in a shower of rain. Certainly these airborne episodes are startlingly beautiful, but they also exercise a strong visceral tug, tapping in to dreams of weightlessness and impossible grace. Special effects are kept simple but powerfully elemental; an episode where a vast ball of dough is picked at until it becomes an oozing wound is particularly resonant. This is a fabulous piece of work, as passionately executed as it was beautifully conceived.

HETTIE JUDAH



Premier Taiwanese export:  
Cloud Gate Dance Theatre

When Lin Hwai-min founded Cloud Gate Dance Theatre in Taiwan in 1973, contemporary dance was in its infancy in his country. Today, a quarter of a century later, his company can lay fair claim to being "Asia's leading contemporary dance theatre". By any standards Lin's troupe, which made its British debut at Sadler's Wells on Tuesday night, is a fine ensemble and his choreography is both accomplished and gripping, rigorous and committed, and not a little beautiful too.

*Songs of the Wanderers*, the 90-minute production which the Taiwanese bring to London, takes its dancers on a journey to spiritual enlightenment. It starts with a single standing monk, frozen in prayer and unblinking despite the stream of rice which rains down on his shaved head, gradually forming a mound at his feet. For the next 90 minutes he will not move — the ultimate ascetic on his own path to enlightenment.

He is joined on stage by 14 pilgrims taking the first tentative steps in what will be a long and arduous journey. A

snaking pile of rice suggests a river, and soon the dancers are diving into it like eager supplicants into holy water. Before they are through, the stage will be covered in more than three tons of rice, which has been washed, dried and dyed saffron-yellow. In one gloriously eloquent setting, rice transforms the stage into a shimmering night-time desert, its sands scored by the tracks of an eternity of pilgrims.

Geography is both the literal and metaphoric landscape against which these wanderers strive in their "quest for

quietude". The religious images are fed by Buddhism, but one doesn't need to recognise them to understand the fervour of Lin's journey.

As if to underline the universality of his theme, Lin sets his piece to Georgian folk songs. The choreography is a fusion of East and West, from Martha Graham and classical ballet to Tai Chi and Chinese Opera. Its gnarled, carved shapes are delivered so slowly that they appear to unfold within a trance. Lin's dancers meditate before a performance and you can see why: the focus and control required is formidable.

At the end a curtain of rice erupts in a golden explosion of ecstasy. It is a brilliant theatrical moment which bedazzles our imagination.

DEBRA CRAINE

## A big adventure

**T**he London Schools Symphony Orchestra is always adventurous in its programming. This concert coaxed those curious to hear the first British performance of Tournemire's Symphony No 3, seldom played since its Concertgebouw premiere in 1914.

It was also clever to couple the Tournemire with Saint-Saëns's popular Symphony No 3: both works feature the organ, and both are structured in four movements spread over two parts. Both composers were organists themselves, but there the parallels end. The Saint-Saëns is one of the most brilliant French symphonies, and though this performance of the Tournemire was full of interest, it quickly explained why the work has languished in obscurity.

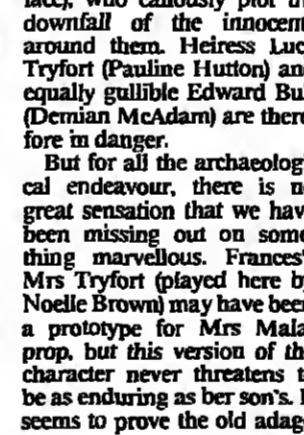
Charles Tournemire, who was born in 1870 and drowned at sea in 1939, is best remembered as the composer of *L'Orgue mystique*, a cycle of organ suites for every Sunday of the church's year. As organist of Sainte-Clotilde in Paris he followed in the footsteps of one of his teachers, Franck, like another teacher, Widor, his output included several forgotten operas and prolific amounts of chamber music.

Tournemire composed his Third Symphony after a visit to Russia, and subtitled it Moscow: the Russian influence is

heard most strongly in the gopak-like dance of the second movement and the evocation of the Kremlin bells in the third. The impressionistic first movement is less arresting, though its opening rather intriguingly points towards the beginning of Puccini's "Paris" opera *Il tabarro*. Some passages wander generically, and the final apotheosis nearly doesn't happen, but the best moments, like the third movement's carillon, are striking. In contrast to the Saint-Saëns, the organ part is disappointingly unspectacular.

As well as putting the Tournemire into perspective, the Saint-Saëns gave the young players something with which to prove themselves. There is nothing elusive about this score, and Peter Stark got a performance of sweep and vigour. Richard Hunt displayed the necessary nerves of steel in his handling of the organ part, and with excellent playing from all sections of the orchestra this was a very grown-up performance.

JOHN ALLISON



## CONCERT

■ *The Whispers* (see review)

■ *Benedict Nightingale* (see review)

■ *Cloud Gate Dance Theatre* (see review)

■ *John Allison* (see review)

■ *Debra Craine* (see review)

■ *Hettie Judah* (see review)

■ *Mark Trevorrow* (see review)

■ *Bob Downe* (see review)

■ *John-Paul Zaccarini* (see review)

■ *Simon Russell Beale* (see review)

■ *Daniel Evans* (see review)

■ *Denis Quilley* (see review)

■ *Alex Kelly* (see review)

■ *Beverley Klein* (see review)

■ *Clive Rowe* (see review)

■ *Mark Trevorrow* (see review)

■ *John Caird* (see review)

■ *Richard Brinsley Sheridan* (see review)

■ *Frances Sheridan* (see review)

■ *Noelle Brown* (see review)

■ *Pauline Hutton* (see review)

■ *Edward Bull* (see review)

■ *Dermian McAdam* (see review)

■ *Adrian Whiteley* (see review)

■ *Richard Whiteley* (see review)

■ *Bob Downe* (see review)

■ *John-Paul Zaccarini* (see review)

# BOOKS

## Celebration of life in the face of death

Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks hails a moving testament to the vanished world of the *shtetl*, a reminder of how Jews lived before the horror of the Holocaust

**T**owards the end of her life, Lucy Davidowitz, doyenne of Holocaust historians, expressed qualms about the sheer flood of Shoah literature which, she feared, was threatening to drown out all other memories of European Jewry. The result, she warned, would be that young people would learn about "the Greeks and how they lived, the Romans and how they lived, and the Jews and how they died".

Her concern was justified. The Holocaust meant more than the murder of two thirds of Europe's Jews. It split the end of one of the most energetic and diverse of Europe's cultural traditions — the Jewish community life of the *shtetl*, the small townships of Central and Eastern Europe, with their rich and vivid worlds of Jewish piety and Yiddish humour. The Jews of Europe did more than die. They lived. And that life too deserves its memorial.

Walking around the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, I was struck by one section that did just this. Called *The Tower of Life*, it is a pictorial history of a small town in Lithuania called Eishyshok, told through 1,500 photographs of the Jews who once lived, worked and prayed together there. It is almost unbearably moving, allowing us to identify with lives cut short, a community extinguished, a way of life destroyed.

That exhibit, I now discover, was the work of a remarkable historian, Yaffa Eliach, who has spent the past 17 years reconstructing the story of the town she was forced to leave as a child. *There Once Was a World* is that story, and it is destined to become a classic.

There had been Jews in Eishyshok since before the 11th century. It was a small community whose Jewish population rarely numbered more than 3,000. But through the centuries it sustained a vigorous Jewish life, together with synagogues, houses of study and an academy that could boast among its alumni some of the giants of the rabbinical world, among them the saintly Chafetz Chaim and Rabbi Isaac Reines, a pioneer of religious Zionism.

**THERE ONCE WAS A WORLD**  
By Yaffa Eliach  
Little, Brown, £30  
ISBN 0 316 23252 1



Eliach documents every aspect of the community. There are some marvellous stories. I loved the account of how the town acquired its second synagogue, built as an act of revenge by the father of the bar mitzvah boy who felt that his son (an ignoramus, but still the son of a wealthy man) had not been given sufficient honour. The argument split the town for 20 years.

Then there was the great exorcism that wasn't. Reb Meyer-Yude, the schoolteacher, had been haunted at night by strange sounds which he naturally attributed to a *gugel*, a stray soul, who had taken up residence in his ear. A quorum was gathered and a solemn exorcism duly performed but to no avail. Some days later all was explained. A mouse had become trapped in the lining of his bedcover and was trying to escape. Ever afterwards the teacher was known as Reb Maizel, the "little mouse". The other-worldly rabbis,

strong women, quarrelsome merchants and child prodigies, the whole rumbustious, God-indicated atmosphere could have come straight from the fiction of Shalom Aleichem and Bailevi Singer. Never before, though, has it been more painstakingly recorded as history, or more poignantly.

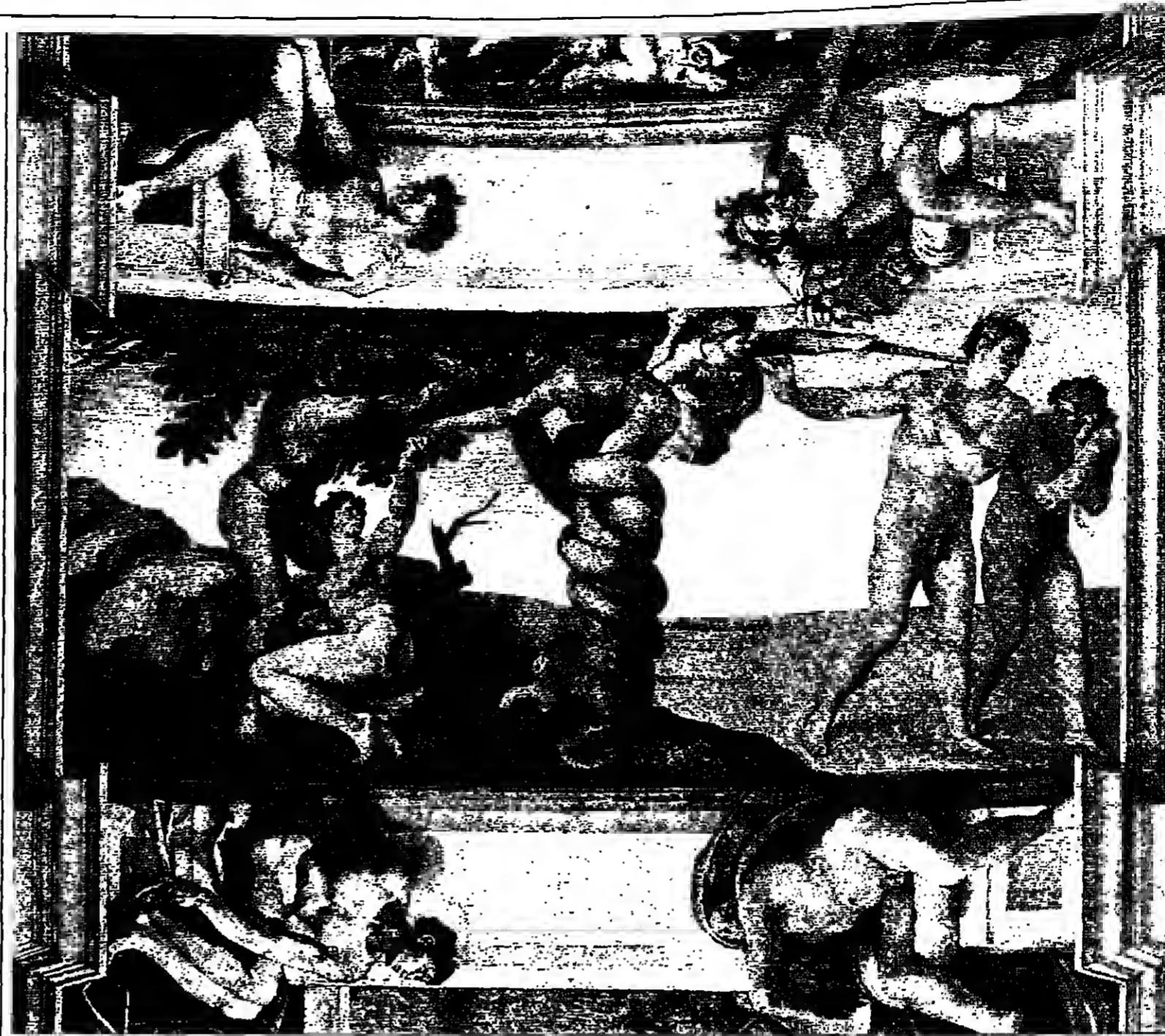
For it was all destined to end. In June 1941 the German army invaded Lithuania and entered Eishyshok. On September 25 and 26, 3,500 of Eishyshok's Jews, with another 1,500 from the surrounding countryside, were murdered, men on the first day, women and children on the second. Only a handful survived. The town rabbi was forced to stand and watch the murder of his congregation and his family and was then buried alive.

Eliach herself, four years old at the time, spent the rest of the war in hiding and later witnessed the murder of her mother and brother. Her mission has been to move beyond the "stark images of victimisation and death" and write Holocaust history as a testament to life. Her book — massive, meticulous and written with astonishing grace — is a heart-breaking masterpiece.

It owes its title to one of the survivors. Eliach's uncle, who encouraged her to write so that the *shtetl* might live on in memory. "At least the people," he said, "and perhaps even God, will remember that there once was a world filled with faith, Judaism and humanity." There once was, and this is its memorial.



Recording the past: the Holocaust Memorial Museum



Michelangelo's 'The Expulsion from Eden', a detail from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, 1510 — one of the works commissioned by Pope Julius II

## Pope, patron and pop

**A**ny consideration of Michelangelo starts with a mighty advantage: the mass of material surviving from his own lifetime, including two biographies, of which the second represents his "authorised version" of his own career.

But with all the evidence accumulated by modern scholarship comes a mighty challenge. And about some periods of Michelangelo's life, notably the years it was growing up in Florence, our knowledge is patchy and unsure.

Professor Beck clearly relishes the challenge. Based on the sources and abreast of current research, his book is intentionally — and boldly — speculative. Yet he often fills his pages with familiar factual details (over, for instance, the placing of Michelangelo's *David* statue) of little or no relevance to his aim. That is to delineate what he calls three "worlds" of

Michelangelo under the dominance of three "fathers": Lorenzo de' Medici ("the Magnificent"); Pope Julius II; and his actual father, Lodovico Buonarroti. They were crucial for the fulfilment of Michelangelo's "mission". According to the author: "Each formed for the artist an epicentre for discovery and expansion".

Less grandiloquently, everyone would agree that Julius II proved a stormy but superb patron, with ideas ambitious enough in equal Michelangelo's. Creative tension between two men never resulted in anything more sublime than the ceiling frescoes of the Sistine Chapel. But there was no need to describe each element of the scheme, though here it supplements a sooty, barely legible two-page illustration pasted over with labels. Professor Beck ought to be horrified by the poor quality of the illustrations throughout his book.

**MICHAEL LEVEY**  
**THREE WORLDS OF MICHELANGELO**  
By James Beck  
W. W. Norton, £18.95  
ISBN 0 393 04524 2



One novelty he does offer, as a "highly engaging possibility", is identification of the head of Holofernes, in the frescoes of Judith and Holofernes, as a portrait of Julius II. This

is explained as a way of "poking fun" at the Pope's reputation as a womaniser. More holy terror than Holy Father, Julius II might have been less amused than Professor Beck assumes. In sad reality, he was a "father" who disappointed Michelangelo by dying before realisation of their joint project of his tomb — too cursorily discussed here.

We know tantalisingly little about the patronage Lorenzo de' Medici extended to the young Michelangelo. If a "father", in some sense, he was one who died suddenly and prematurely. Professor Beck invests him with magus-like significance, drifting from speculation into fancy: "A treasure trove of mysterious and exotic objects was laid open ... by Lorenzo, who — we can guess — unfolded their secrets patiently..."

After that, it is inevitable that the Ghirlandaio brothers,

who first took the boy into their studio, should be termed "predictable, profit-oriented craftsmen". Ghirlandaio deserves proper evaluation. His best work is far from "predictable". And his studio provided something Lorenzo de' Medici could not: sound training in painting techniques.

Not even Professor Beck can make much of a case for treating Michelangelo's father as an "epicentre" of more than grumbling self-pity. He was a paternal figure who had opposed the boy's wish to be an artist and who declined to die — just lived on to be a burden to his famous, middle-aged son. Although the *Doni tondo* and the *David* statue are discussed in connection with him, nothing suggests his interest in them. How he justifies the claim of helping Michelangelo fulfil his "mission", remains the most perplexing question in a perplexing book.

## Carry on, Mr President, you're even funnier than fiction

**S**o, into every life some pain must crawl. For a few, the mauling pain will shape the life; for others, pain will be the starting point on a soaring arc of recovery toward redemption. History — unlike novels — tells us otherwise. The speaking oracle of history tells us most lives are lived unplotted by defining points along a narrative arc. Most human beings live lives of undefined moments.

Such are not the lives we expect to find in novels; nor, for that matter, do we expect novelists to live undefining, ordinary lives. In the case of American novelist Tim O'Brien, the pain that crawled into his life and gave its anguished shape to his bent was none other than that irremovable defining "moment" in America's recent history, the war in Vietnam.

In three stunning novels — *If I Die in a Combat Zone, Going After Cacciato* and *The Things They Carried* — O'Brien has been unsparing, and unsurpassed, in showing us the scars of war his psyche bears. For 20 years he has given us harrowing written proof of his unwillingness to be defined only by his experiences in that war. Again and again he has tried to wrestle awake from that nightmare into a dreamlike peace, only to be pulled back, fated like Prometheus to be chained forever to the pain. Watching him attempt to free himself through his subsequent novels (all of them excursions into isolation and loss) has been, at times, excruciating; but that is part of

**MARIANNE WIGGINS**  
**TOMCAT IN LOVE**  
By Tim O'Brien  
Fleming, £16.99  
ISBN 0 00 225819 6



what makes reading him exciting. Will he succeed against his own demons? If so, how?

In *Tomcat in Love*, loss is yet again O'Brien's theme. Thomas H. Chippering, the eponymous Tomcat, has lost Lorna Sue, the girl-next-door he fell in love with at age seven, fell into carnal knowledge of a decade later on the hood of his father's Pontiac in the middle of a Minnesota cornfield and, eventually, married. O'Brien's first-person narrator Tom (for whom read Tim, himself) relates the tale of how Lorna Sue has left him and gone to Tampa, Florida, into the arms of a tycoon after her brother, Herbie — formerly Tom's best friend — reveals a love "ledger" (an account of sexual conquests) which Tom has kept hidden, so to speak, beneath the conjugal mattress.

*Tomcat in Love* is never quite buoyantly nuptial to be farce. It lumbers along, sputtering like a cartoon Chevy gasping for gas. Then it delivers a coda on the last page which made my heart leap with hope. Yes, O'Brien argues convincingly, there is something on the other side of pain worth fighting for. Its shape is love. Thank you, Tim.

Marianne Wiggins's novel, *Almost Heaven*, is published by Anchor at £9.99.

Mouse that roared

Violin Shindie

By Michael El

It's all a stat

By John Mc

# BOOKS

مكتبة الأصل

## Sex isn't everything, but everything is sex

Oxford's reader on sexuality explores the protean passion which pleasures and pains humanity

**W**hy there should be an "Oxford Readers" guide to sexuality is anybody's guess. Lawrence once said that sex in the head was the most uncomfortable place to have it, and this volume might seem to represent the ultimate in cerebral eroticism. There are essays with such titles as *Inanna rejoicing in her Vulva, Sodomy and Moral Panic in the Low Countries* and *Deep Sex in the Skeleton*. Each may be valuable in itself, but en masse they may not be considered suitable bedtime reading.

Such is the pervasiveness of the subject, however, that to talk about sex is to talk about everything else — from oligarchical government to 19th-century theories of selfhood. The problem is compounded by the fact that the expression of sexuality changes with each generation, or with each culture, so that researchers are not necessarily or always talking about the same thing.

In Ancient Canopus, and in many other pre-Christian civilisations, the sex act was considered a form of worship; in classical Athens sexuality was seen as an indication of social identity and "a manifestation of personal status". It need not necessarily be assumed, however, that the advent of Christian morality cast a sudden and brutal cloud over the unthinking pleasures of the pagans — as one of the contributors here remarks, the Ancients could be just as pessimistic and unhappy about sexual congress as the most melancholy such seers as Rousseau and Freud.

But if women were mistreated, those known by the name of sodomites had even more unhappy experiences. If caught they were burnt and tortured or, if they were fortunate, garrotted and drowned in a barrel. These examples of violent animosity were periodic in nature and in intensity, generally occurring in eras when a range of victimisation were being exploited to exacerbate more general social problems.

Of course, as the editor explains here, perversions were the creation of the 19th century. The intellectual police, in the mid-point of that era,

Christian was on its way to being born. The ideal woman was one who followed the example of Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra, who "had no more sensitivity in her sexual parts than in her feet or hands". Yet it is suggested in *Sexuality* that this extraordinary misinterpretation of the female continued for many centuries, through the agency of such seers as Rousseau and Freud.

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Peter Ackroyd

committed the extraordinary sin of naming them, and then created "a small army of medical and legal specialists devoted to studying, curing or punishing them". This embodies a point made by many contributors to this anthology — sex, and its varied descriptions, is always part of the more general culture. In the 19th century it might be

constructed as a form of bourgeois familial morality or it might be seen as a form of transcendental impulse based upon borrowings from German idealism. Sex is not an "it" which persists perpetually, manifesting itself in the same range of activities, but a protean force which can take a thousand different forms or appearances.

Despite its forbidding appearance, therefore, this book is worth pursuing — there are discussions on prostitution, "liberation" and masturbation. A textbook of the 18th century, entitled *Onanis*, was "a compilation of the lives of men brought low by self-abuse", and elaborate lists of precautions were suggested. One victim of the habit kept a record of his "seminal losses": "Excretion in morning; only drops... Masturbation was considered the prime cause of degeneracy in individuals, and in races — more dangerous than plagues or wars. It is easy to ridicule these opponents of the pleasure principle, but the same overreactions are still displayed by the opponents of drink or cigarettes.

One general point remains, however, resting largely on the belief

propounded by the editor of this collection that individuals "are increasingly obliged to present to the world a self based in large degree on personal sexual identity". Certainly the 20th century has seen an emphasis upon sexuality, to the exclusion of everything else, and this has created an unbalanced and almost hysterical obsession with sexual preference and sexual activity.

It may be worth repeating that sexual identity is not the most important component of human character. What began as a 20th-century sexual revolution has turned into the newest forms of conformity and conventionalism. The strength of this book lies in its wholly objective manner in the face of sexual correctness. A tendentious account of AIDS, for example, is succeeded by a sharp rebuttal. The only real problem in writing about sex is that of predictability: by juxtaposing many writers and many ideas, *Sexuality* avoids that fate and offers a great deal of enlightenment as well.

SEXUALITY  
Edited by Robert A. Nye  
OUP, £15  
ISBN 0 19 288019 5



Albion stands alone

NOR SHALL MY SWORD

By Simon Heffer  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.99  
ISBN 0 297 64332 0

IN the moment of Scottish and Welsh devolution, Heffer washes his hands of the Union and calls for a revival of English cultural nationalism. In a thoroughly nasty, narrow little book, Heffer takes the English to task for weak-kneed acquiescence in multiculturalism and political naivety. This wanton polemic manages to be not only offensive to the Scots, Welsh and Irish, but takes a swipe at Europe and cuffs at the complacency of English yeomen and yobbo alike.

All loved-out

THE END OF THE NOVEL OF LOVE  
By Vivian Gornick  
Virago, £9.99  
ISBN 1 86049 646 6

THIS lit-crit excursion posits the death of romantic love — in literature as well as in living experience. Gornick's theme, "that love might dilute the strength of a good novel rather than gather it in", embraces, among others, the fiction of George Meredith, Willa Cather and Virginia Woolf and the lives of Clover Adams, Hannah Arendt and Jean Rhys. "Love as a metaphor," Gornick concludes, "is an act of nostalgia, not of discovery." You might as well die, as Dorothy Parker didn't say.

Just joking

PLAY RESUMED  
By D. J. Enright  
OUP, £18  
ISBN 0 19 288108 6

AMONG the pleasures of Enright's enlightening engravings, we are promised "the funny side of Goethe, Kafka and Schopenhauer" — the very highest of junks. But poets, Enright observes, take a risk when they lighten solemnity with wit. He shouldn't worry about being given the bum's rush from the poetry reading circuit: his humour is sufficiently erudite and high-minded. Some old-fartism aside, he casts an experienced eye and cocks an ironic ear on everything from God to Grub Street.

IAIN FINLAYSON



Melanie Griffith and Antonio Banderas with Mickey Mouse at the opening ceremony of the Planet Hollywood Cafe at Disneyland Paris, 1996

INTERVIEWED THIS SATURDAY  
Crime writer Walter Mosley

## Mouse that roared

Michael Eisner revived Disney's fortunes by his animated dealing, says Colin Shindler

**M**ichael Eisner is probably the most important Hollywood mogul since Jack Warner in the 1960s. It could never be said of him, as it could of Warner, that he would rather tell a bad joke than make a good movie. He has made many good movies — from *The Lion King* to *Dead Poets Society*. Eisner is the chairman of the Walt Disney Company.

Eisner achieved his current lofty status via New York and television, unlike the old heads of the studios who despised television and thought of New York, where fiscal decisions were taken, as "the enemy".

Eisner began life in a comfortable Park Avenue apartment on the Upper East Side. His grandfather Sigmund Eisner had followed the classic immigrant trail — arriving penniless in America in 1880, finding work as a pedlar and millionaire status making uniforms for the Army. The progress of the Eisners is a perfect example of the way in which Hollywood has evolved in the past 75 years.

No doubt Sigmund's son and grandson could have en-

joyed the fruits of his labours, but Grandpa's legacy appears to have been a ferocious work ethic. Eisner's father pursued Princeton and Harvard Law School and became head of public housing for the state of New York. Eisner writes admiringly of his father that he always seemed youthful, charismatic and athletic. He loved golf, tennis and polo, "coming home bruised and bloodied". This sounds like a man to avoid on the 18th green with the match all square.

**Work In Progress**  
By Michael Eisner  
Penguin  
£18.99  
ISBN 0 14 028198 3

**Work In Progress**, despite being written "with Tony Schwartz", is the unmistakable voice of Hollywood's most powerful executive. Do not read it with a view to learning more about the mechanics of film-making. There are no insights into the production of Eisner's movies which included, during his time at Paramount, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Reds*, *Ordinary People* and *Terms of Endearment*. The art of Hollywood is the art of the deal and Eisner is one of the best.

His description of how he came to be chief executive at Disney, his 15-year collaboration with Jeffrey Katzenberg — who left in a huff to found the Dream Works studio with Steven Spielberg and David Geffen — and his subsequent tortured working relationship with Michael Ovitz are the stuff of this book.

Disney is no longer a film company, it is a brand. Eisner's job is not to supervise movies but to produce profits for the Disney empire which

now stretches from Disneyland Paris to Broadway versions of the animated films. Eisner took a troubled company and made it one of the success stories of recent corporate American history. How it will survive in the event of Eisner's departure, which nearly happened after a heart attack in 1994, is harder to predict.

In 1940 Leo Rosten wrote *Hollywood, the Movie Colony, the Movie Makers*, the first sociological examination of the American film industry. In

1951 the New Yorker journalist Lillian Ross wrote a book called *Picture* which detailed the making of John Huston's *The Red Badge of Courage* during the months at MGM when Louis B. Mayer was being manoeuvred out of his own company. *Work in Progress* is unlikely to acquire the same literary cachet, but it is possible that it will be examined by media students in 50 years as the former is now — a telling snapshot of Hollywood at the end of the millennium.

## It's all a state of mind

**E**ven if he did not admit that he was no professional scientist but a journalist instead, John McCrone's slick and pacy style is a dead giveaway. Here, at last, is a book on the brain, where sentences sparkle: it is a true joy to read and, at least for the first half, impossible to put down.

We join McCrone in the mid-1970s, where he is fascinated by the reality of a moment of consciousness, yet bitterly disillusioned by the sterile scientific approaches of the time. Rather than plod through each technical advance year by remorseless year, McCrone has a more agile strategy: we are introduced to the awesome progress in brain research as each comes appropriately to hand for building up a picture of how the brain does indeed generate the subjective experience of a moment of living. Accordingly, the next few chapters take a very sensible look at brain scanning, the seemingly eternal controversy of conscious computers and the actual relevance of recording the brain's electrical signals.

McCrone's manifesto, eloquently and persuasively argued, is that the brain is above all a dynamic system — not tractable to computational description but more a cauldron of interconnected and evolving processes most hopefully modelled not by Chaos, but by Complexity Theory. McCrone humanises the story by de-

**GOING INSIDE**  
By John McCrone  
Faber & Faber  
£20  
ISBN 0 571 17319 5

scribing the key events along the way. Whole careers as well as personal characteristics of diverse scientists are laid out before us — telling tales of the perils of going against inherited wisdom, of serendipitous discovery and of the burden of preconceived ideas. Yet despite the well-argued stance in favour of incessant change in the brain where vibrance, adaptability and wholesale operations distinguish it at the most fundamental level from the input/output processing of a computer, McCrone lapses into the very trap he eschews. As he builds up from whole events to whole brain regions, the inevitable stage by stage processing so beloved of the computer modeller creeps back into his narrative.

In a book with no illustrations at all, the neuroanatomical circuits described may well

be bewildering for the general reader, let alone the descriptions of how they work sequentially together. McCrone's case is not helped by the graphic but misleading writing tricks of referring to each region as a clearly defined centre that "decides" or "compares" or "filters" as though each was an autonomous mini-brain. To be fair, the concluding chapters do return to the message that the changing brain enables a moment of consciousness to bring "your entire history to bear on your next step, your next breath, your next moment" — as McCrone quotes the pioneer neuroscientist Walter Freeman. It is not an end product but a change in an ongoing state.

However, such showcasing of some means omission of others. In a book exploring consciousness, I would have expected some discussion of Penrose's application of Quantum Theory and of Amilam Grinwald's summing experiments showing that brain cells can indeed assemble into functional groups of some ten million within a mere 230 seconds — and all triggered by a single light flash. Moreover, the excursion into self-consciousness and language would have benefited from reference to the ideas of the archaeologist Stephen Mithen who has come up with a theory as to how the modern human mind differs both from our primate cousins and indeed from our Neanderthal predecessors.

**Pathways that detect smell**

Anyone really interested in consciousness might have hoped for applications of all of McCrone's comprehensive knowledge of the brain to the actions of modifying drugs, of hormones and indeed to the importance of the rest of the body to the "feel" of an emotion — as well as a discussion of the relevance of all the above to disorders such as schizophrenia and depression. But coming up with a good "slant" on consciousness is a tall order. I would love this book to be on an introductory reading list for those studying the brain. For while it gives no insight nor any real new way of looking at consciousness itself, *Going Inside* is a brilliant entrée to the highs and lows of the current state of the art of neuroscience.

SUSAN GREENFIELD



## Tale aimed high

**T**here was an unusual degree of consensus among Moscow's otherwise riven literati when the shortlist for the 1997 Russian Booker Prize was announced. It was as though everyone — including the shortlisted authors — felt impoverished by the exclusion from the contest of *Chapayev and the Void*, an ambitious novel by Victor Pelevin, one of Russia's most promising young writers.

English readers may never get the chance to read Anatoli Akselsky's *The Cage* which went on to win. However, Pelevin's metaphysical tour de force, renamed *The Clay Machine-Gun* (Faber, £19.99; ISBN 0 571 19406 0), is now available in a true translation by Andrew Brown.

In this novel Pelevin develops the technique, perfected in his satirical short stories, of constantly tilting the narrative floor so that the reader no longer knows where the border between fantasy and reality lies. The *Clay Machine-Gun* ostensibly tells a version of the much-mythologised history of Vasily Chapayev, the heroic Red Army Commander during the Civil War, through the eyes of his devoted adjutant Petka. Through a series of drunken discussions in the bathhouse, Petka and Vasily grapple with the themes of Russia's history, before going out to do battle with the help of Anka their powerfully attractive machinegunner.

Alternatively, the novel de-

scribes the elaborate schizophrenic fantasies of a group of patients in a contemporary Moscow asylum. Maria thinks he is a female Mexican soap star clinging to the body of a jet fighter piloted by Arnold Schwarzenegger. Serdyuk believes that he has been forced to commit ritual suicide when an interview with a Japanese bank makes unexpected claims on his honour. Volodin is certain that it burns with the grace of God.

On another level still, the novel is "a peculiar flight of free thought" to Inner Mongolia on the edge of the Eastern Steppe, and a spiritual place where consciousness and eternal grace unite. You can pick over the trail of Russian literature and history finding clues in the references culled from intensive reading. You can leave the asylum under the sometimes brutal guidance of Doctor Timur Timurovich (the psychological Tamerlane); you can follow Chapayev as he applies the teachings of Buddha with the help of a metaphysical clay machinegun.

By juggling so many narra-

tive balls it is perhaps inevitable that Pelevin disappoints the reader by allowing some of them to crash to the floor. And while *The Clay Machine-Gun* demonstrates that Pelevin is a virtuoso of the short story, it also reveals his weakness as a novelist.

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## Considering anonymity of witnesses

**Regina v Saville of Newdigate (Lord) and Others, Ex parte B and Others**

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Orton and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment March 30]

Although a decision by the chairman of a public inquiry, guaranteeing the anonymity of witnesses whose evidence might expose them to risk to their lives or security, could not bind a future inquiry established many years later to reinvestigate the same events, it was a matter which the later inquiry tribunal was bound to take into account and to give some weight to when deciding, in relation to its own procedures, whether to accord those witnesses the same protection.

The Court of Appeal so held when granting leave for, but dismissing an appeal by Lord Saville of Newdigate, Sir Edward Somers and Mr Justice Hoyt, the members of the tribunal sitting as the second Bloody Sunday Inquiry, against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court [Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Owen and Mr Justice Bushell] on March 16, 1999, granting the applicants, B. O. U. and V., judicial review of a ruling of the tribunal on December 14, 1998, in so far as it denied them anonymity as witnesses to the inquiry.

The four applicants, together with a fifth referred to as soldier H, were all ex-servicemen who had fired live rounds in Londonderry on January 30, 1972, during the events referred to as "Bloody Sunday" in which 13 people died and at least as many more were injured, and whose anonymity had been assured when they gave evidence before the first inquiry, chaired by Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, in 1972.

In his report, Lord Widgery recorded:

"Since it was obvious that by giving

evidence soldiers and police officers might increase the dangers which they, and indeed their families, have to run, I agreed that they should appear before me under pseudonyms."

The Divisional Court concluded that the inquiry tribunal "misunderstood the nature and extent of the anonymity granted to the applicants by Lord Widgery, and that this misunderstanding played a significant part in the inquiry's reasoning process when arriving at the decision under challenge".

For that and other reasons it quashed the ruling and remitted the matter for reconsideration by the tribunal for reconsideration by the tribunal.

Mr Christopher Clarke, QC and Mr Alan Rodough for the tribunal; Mr John Cayle for the families of the deceased and the injured; Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC, Mr David Lloyd Jones and Mr Michael Tools for the soldiers; Mr Ian Burnett, QC, for the Ministry of Defence.

"We do not know by whom or in exactly what terms this assurance is supposed to have been given. It seems to us that we can assume no more than that the soldiers understood and expected their names would not be divulged in the course of proceedings before Lord Widgery."

We are not aware of any reason to believe that that assurance was given that their names would never be disclosed by anyone. Accordingly, we treat these as fresh applications for the grant of anonymity and we start with no presumption that the existing de facto anonymity should be preserved."

The tribunal decided to place the obligation on those who sought anonymity to show genuine and reasonable cause as to the potential consequences of disclosure of their personal details" - and concluded that in most cases it would be sufficient if the identification of those at risk was restricted to the use of surnames, all other details being withheld, with alternative arrangements being contemplated only in the case of particularly unusual circumstances.

On the application for judicial review of the tribunal's ruling, the Divisional Court also heard submissions on behalf of the families of those who had died and those who were injured on Bloody Sunday, and on behalf of the Ministry of Defence representing other soldiers in the same position as the applicants but as yet unidentified.

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those who had died and those who were injured on Bloody Sunday, and on behalf of the Ministry of Defence representing other soldiers in the same position as the applicants but as yet unidentified.

Its reasoning, as a general rule, appears must be against decisions, not against judgments or reasons: see *Luke v Lake* ([1955] P 336).

Most appeals now required leave and one would expect courts to be slow to grant such leave merely in respect of faulty reasoning. A similar approach should be taken on judicial review, but there were always exceptions, of which this case was one. In the circumstances, His Lordship was satisfied that the court had jurisdiction to hear the appeal.

In reaching its decision, the tribunal had exhibited great care to balance the interests of the families of the deceased and other interested parties, as against the legitimate interests of the soldiers in not being inappropriately exposed to risk.

It was also important to bear in mind that the tribunal's was an interim decision, which recognised that questions of anonymity might be reconsidered on the basis of material put before it by any of the parties, which would influence its future conduct of the inquiry and one which ought, if erroneous, to be corrected.

Mr Glasgow contended that the issue should be treated as one of withdrawal of anonymity rather than refusal to grant it, and that the tribunal had erred in adopting a "clean sheet" approach in which the focus was on the soldiers to make a fresh application.

Having been granted anonymity for the Widgery inquiry, they had a legitimate expectation that their anonymity would be respected and preserved thereafter.

According to the tribunal's approach, however, their right to anonymity would have expired as soon as Lord Widgery had completed his inquiry and delivered his report. That could not be right.

The Divisional Court observed that: "any decision which involves disclosure of their surnames for

its purposes of this present inquiry is on the face of it a breach of the 1972 assurance because, once their surnames are revealed, together with such information as they may now give, it will be possible to discover who appeared under her name in 1972."

Indeed it seems almost inevitable that if the present decision stands each applicant will now be cross-examined publicly about what he said in 1972.

It was right that Lord Widgery could only deal with what would happen at his own inquiry. What he could not do was to bring up 26 years later. But in deciding what was appropriate and fair to the soldiers, what Lord Widgery said could not be ignored.

The clean sheet approach could never from the soldiers' point of view be fairly adopted. They were entitled to have the current tribunal take into account what had been said in 1972, since their identification in 1999 would result in their identification in relation to their earlier inquiry.

It might be only one of the considerations which the second tribunal should take into account, but it could not be ignored; and in the reasons it gave for its ruling, the tribunal appeared not to have given the matter the appropriate weight.

The Divisional Court's criticism could not be faulted and its decision must be upheld.

When the matter was reconsidered by the tribunal, it should take into account the obvious inferences to be drawn from what Lord Widgery had said.

Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Ward gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Mr Philip L. Ridd; B. M. Birberg & Co for Madden & Burnside, Belfast; McCartney & Casey, Derry; Desmond J. Doherty & Co, Derry; and Macermont & McGurk, Derry; Treasury Solicitor; Treasury Solicitor.

## Challenging jurisdiction of foreign court

**Turner v Grovit and Others**

Before David Donaldson, QC

[Judgment February 23]

In the absence of a prior exclusive jurisdiction clause in its favour, it was inconsistent with well-established principle for the courts of state A to decide preemptively whether the courts of state B have jurisdiction over a claim.

Mr David Donaldson, QC, sitting as a deputy judge in the Chancery Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the motion of the plaintiffs, Gregory Paul Turner, for orders that the defendants, Felix Fareed Ismail Grovit, Harada Ltd, a company incorporated under the law of Elie, and Changepoint SA, a company incorporated under the law of Spain, be re-

strained until judgment or further order from:

(a) asking or procuring any other person or persons to take any step in an action commenced by one or more of the defendants in the Court of First Instance, Madrid, on or about October 21, 1998; and

(b) commencing or continuing, or procuring any other person to commence or continue, any further or other proceedings against the plaintiff in Spain or elsewhere other than in England and Wales, and discharging the interim injunction in the terms of (a) above granted by Mr Justice Pumfrey on December 22, 1998.

Mr David Bean, QC and Mr Andrew Tabachnick for the plaintiff; Mr Michael Supperstone, QC and

Mr Anthony Snellson for the defendants.

HIS LORDSHIP said that from April 10, 1990 until his resignation on February 16, 1998 the plaintiff was employed as group solicitor of the Chequeline International group of companies to which the second and third defendants belonged. It operated bureaux de change in Europe and elsewhere.

On November 3, 1997 the plaintiff was substantially relocated from London to the third defendant, Changepoint SA, in Madrid. On December 22, 1997 the plaintiff's employment was transferred to Harada on unchanged terms and conditions.

On February 26, 1998 the plaintiff sent a fax to the first defendant resigning his employment, and on

March 2, 1998 commenced proceedings in the industrial tribunal in London, in which he claimed damages for unfair and/or wrongful dismissal.

On September 10, 1998 Harada unsuccessfully challenged the jurisdiction of the employment tribunal to entertain the claim.

The tribunal claimed jurisdiction under article 5(1) of the Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments to Civil and Commercial Matters (Schedule 1) to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1968, since "over the period of the whole contract the applicant worked habitually in London".

Harada had appealed to the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

On October 7, 1998 Changepoint commenced proceedings against the plaintiff in the Court of First Instance in Madrid, claiming substantial damages for negligence and/or breach of contract.

It was inconsistent with the principles of the Brussels Convention that an English court should be asked to decide pre-emptively whether a foreign court had competence to entertain the action commenced in that court according to the foreign court's rules of jurisdiction.

That was so whether the issue concerned the positive question of the availability of a particular ground of jurisdiction in the foreign forum, such as article 5(1), or

the negative question of whether the foreign forum should decline or postpone jurisdiction under article 2(2).

Continental Bank NA v *Aekatos Compania Naviera SA* ([1994] 1 WLR 389), in which the Court of Appeal upheld an injunction restraining further prosecution of prior proceedings in Greece brought by the defendants against the plaintiff in the Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments to Civil and Commercial Matters (Schedule 1) to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1968, was relied upon.

Second, the value otherwise was £5,000 for which Saleslease would, and ultimately did, sell the equipment.

Third, the ordinary expectation of Mr Davis would be that retention might lead to a different decision between what the plaintiff could dispose of the goods as between the date of original detention and the date when the goods were handed back, or conceivably might lead to a loss of hire, if the goods could have been hired out, during the period of detention.

He could not be expected to know, unless told, that Saleslease could not lease the second-hand equipment other than to a person who was available only by chance and the internal decision not to sell him new equipment but

should be read together. The offence was an extradition crime, and four and a half years of supervised release remained to be served. The supervisory term was not an ancillary order, but an integral part of the sentence imposed in the United States.

It was pertinent that there was no requirement for an offender to be unlawfully at large, pursuant to section 96(1)(b) of the Extradition Act 1989.

THE Queen's Bench Divisional Court [Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Mitchell] so held on March 16, in dismissing Robert Anthony Burke's application for a writ of habeas corpus ad subjiciendum.

Mr Burke had been convicted of theft in the USA of US\$61,74 and sentenced there to serve five years of imprisonment and five years of supervised release.

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IN BRIEF

■ WILLEM KORSTEN, the Vitesse Arnhem midfield player, has rejected a permanent transfer to Leeds United, despite agreeing financial terms. Korsten was expected to sign a long-term deal after his loan spell ended this summer. Peter Ridsdale, the Leeds chairman, said that he was mystified by the player's decision. "It's very disappointing. It's the first example I've ever had of a player who has asked for an amount of money on a contract and then, when you offer it to him, decides not to take it," Ridsdale said.

■ The Football Association of Wales (FAW) remains optimistic that the final Euro 2000 qualifying match against Switzerland will be played at Ninian Park, Cardiff, in October, as originally scheduled. The plan had been put in jeopardy because the Wales rugby union team are due to play Japan in the World Cup at the city's Millennium Stadium on October 9. "South Wales Constabulary have told us it wouldn't be possible to police both matches on the same day but, according to the international calendar, our match can be played on the Saturday or the Sunday [October 10]," David Collins, the secretary-general of the FAW, said.

■ The entire Bank of Scotland Scottish Premier League programme for the final day of the season has been switched to Sunday, May 23. The fixtures, which include the potentially crucial games between Rangers and Kilmarnock, and Dundee United and Celtic, have all been set for a 6.05pm kick-off.

■ Alan Thompson, the Aston Villa midfield player who suffered a hamstring injury after five minutes of the match against Southampton last Saturday, is unlikely to play again this season. John Gregory, the Villa manager, said yesterday.

■ England Under-16s will play Hungary, Sweden and Slovakia in their initial group when they compete in the European championship finals in the Czech Republic later this month. England qualified with victories over Cyprus and Armenia in the qualifying group.

Keegan confident that his side will continue in the ascendant

# Fulham's future is founded on optimism

BY ALYSON RUDD

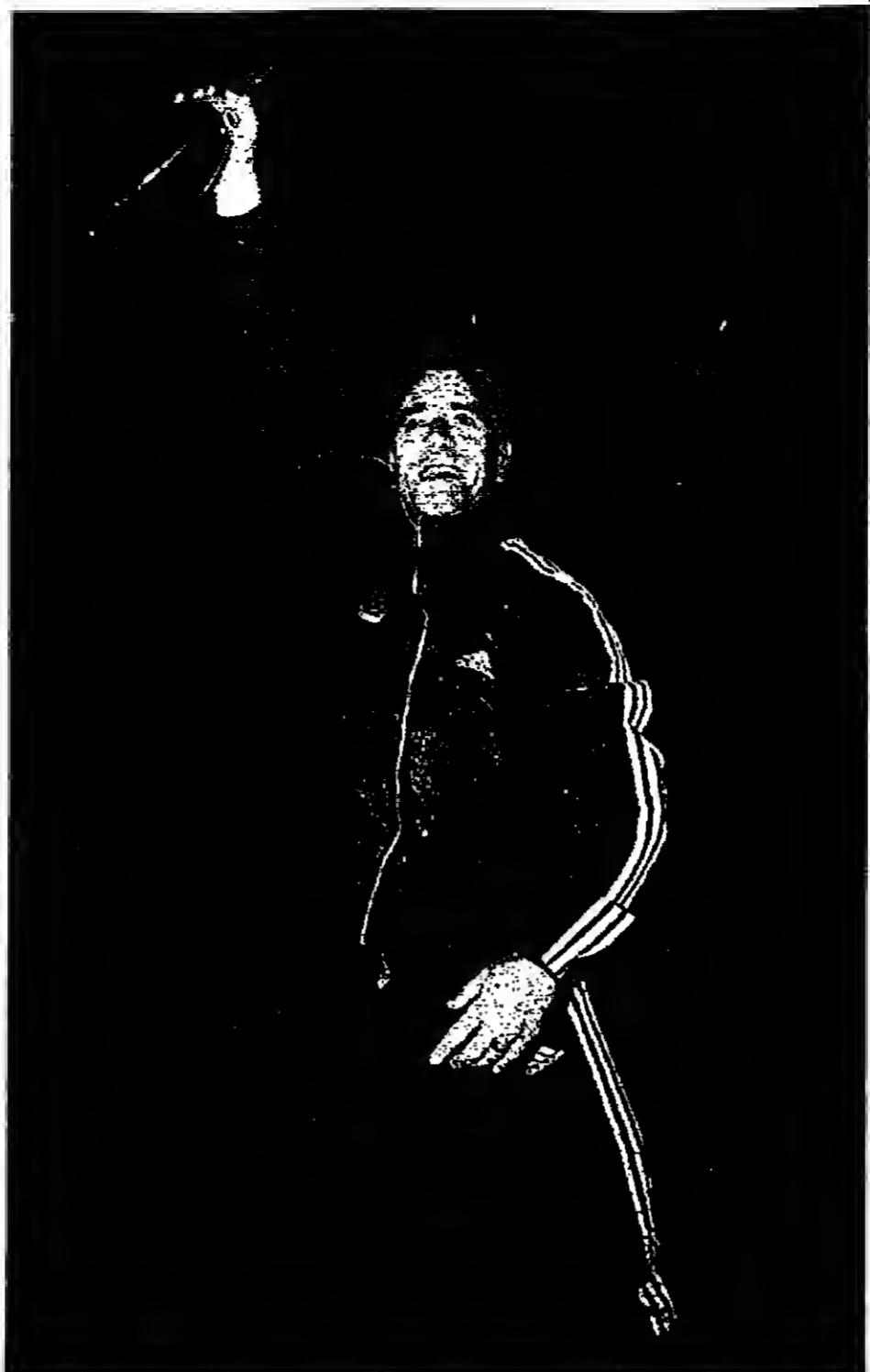
PERHAPS it has something to do with his responsibility for the England side, but Kevin Keegan was careful not to sound naive on Tuesday night after Fulham secured their passage to the Nationwide League first division. Even so, Keegan's brand of realism is mighty optimistic. He refuses to call Fulham a big club — "this is a wonderful, medium-sized club", he enthuses — but there appears no doubt in his mind that the West London side will negotiate the first division almost as easily as they did the second.

In some respects, life will be simpler. Keegan has frequently countered remarks that Fulham have bought their success with the retort that the second division boasts many teams capable of lifting their game to attempt to thwart his side.

Almost every match since Mohammed Al Fayed took control at Craven Cottage nearly two years ago has been played in a cup-tie spirit, with Fulham seen as a worthy scalp.

Come August, Fulham will no longer stand out like a tiara-clad princess down the bingo hall; there will be other moneyed teams and clubs with far more inspirational traditions than those of Fulham, who dropped out of the top flight in 1968, never finishing higher than tenth place.

Even so, with players of the calibre found in the Fulham ranks, it would have been more difficult to fail than succeed these past nine months. The statistic reeled off by Keegan that since he took on the demands of England coach Fulham have won 11 of



High hopes: Keegan believes his job will be done when Fulham are in the Premiership

geared to a future in the FA Carling Premiership. Al Fayed wants to turn Craven Cottage into a stadium with a capacity of 25,000.

"People were suspicious when he came here," Keegan said. "They thought the place might become a block of flats." Once the Cottage can hold

25,000 and is hosting Premiership action, that will be that, according to Keegan. The dream will go no further. "We will never be able to do what we did at Newcastle here, but we can make it special."

And that, it seems, is what keeps Keegan from dumping Fulham for England on a full-

time basis. Being the coach of the England team is just not special enough. "England comes and goes, you get 12 games a year. I enjoy working with players on a day-to-day basis." And for as long as the statistics bear him out, both the Football Association and Al Fayed can stay happy.

# Bolton bring relief to man in the stand

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

SUPPORTERS of Bolton Wanderers feared that something was amiss when they noticed the absence of Colin Todd, the club's manager, from the dugout during the 1-0 win against Bristol City at the Reebok Stadium on Tuesday night. There was no sign of the usually animated character urging his players on greater effort.

They need not have worried. Todd was sitting in the upper tier of the main stand, taking a bird's-eye view of proceedings. "I thought I'd sit upstairs, take stock of things and try to relax a bit more," he said.

Bolton needed the victory — only their second in 11 matches — to strengthen their play-off position and keep alive their hopes of a swift return to the FA Carling Premiership, from which they were relegated last season. Eldur Gudjohnsen's seventh-minute goal proved enough to lift them into fifth place.

"It's put a bit of daylight between us and Walsall, who are seventh, and that's just what we needed," Todd said. "It's nice to get back in the winning habit, but we've now got to build on it. I had the players in for training last Sunday, we had a good chat and I hope the penny has dropped at last."

Todd has added Derek Fazackerley to his coaching staff until the end of the season. Fazackerley has worked with Kevin Keegan at Newcastle United, Roy Hodgson at Blackburn Rovers and has again teamed up with Keegan in his part-time job with England.

Defeat for Bristol City ended their run of three successive wins. Together with Port Vale's 1-1 home draw against Bradford City, it further confuses the relegation issue, with the five clubs at the bottom now separated by two points. Bradford lost ground.



Todd: taking stock

# SATURDAY. ANYTHING BUT A DAY OF REST.

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THE TIMES

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ATHLETICS: SOUTH AFRICAN READY TO HIT THE LONDON STREETS IN THE FORM OF HER LIFE

# Meyer targets paper tigers

By DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

**B**EFORE Elana Meyer had the chance to run against Liz McColgan on track, road or country, she raced her on paper. There was no other way. Meyer, as a South African, was banned from international athletics before 1992. She would compare the times that she ran in the isolation of her homeland with those McColgan clocked around the world.

McColgan's finest hour was one of Meyer's worst, the Scot's 10,000 metres triumph at the 1991 world championships in Tokyo. Meyer was in the stadium watching. "I hated every moment," she said yesterday. "I ran the fastest time in the world in 1991 [at 3,000 and 5,000 metres]. Meyer had two paper victories. McColgan the gold medal.

In the Flora London Marathon on Sunday, the roles are reversed. Meyer will be running while McColgan is forced to watch. McColgan, a top-two finisher in each of the past three years, is pregnant and will join the BBC commentary



team. If Meyer wins, there is one aspect that McColgan can comment on with authority. "We both were told we had career-threatening injuries, yet we both fought back to win the London Marathon," is an area she might expand on.

McColgan overcame her injury to win in 1996. That was the year that Meyer suffered hers, tearing an Achilles tendon during the Olympic marathon. "Doctors said I would be lucky if I ran a marathon again," Meyer said.

In the image of McColgan, Meyer thought she knew better than the doctors. "I never thought I would not run again," she said. "I was committed to come back and I came back stronger." Strong enough, she believes, not only to win on Sunday but to go some way towards fulfilling the prophecy made eight years ago by Zola Budd.

"Elana has the ability to run a sub-2:20 marathon," Budd said in 1991. Meyer, born in 1966, did not envy her compatriot's escape from South Africa to run for Great Britain, although she became her only serious rival in their homeland once the wanderer returned from Britain. "It was always Elana versus Zola, you get a bit tired of that," Meyer said.



Meyer has overcome the frustration of international isolation and serious injury to set her sights on marathon victory

While Budd was going through her traumatic experience, Meyer was furthering her education and making steady progress as an athlete. She gained an honours degree in business economics at Stellenbosch University but, prior to that, attended boarding school in the farming town of Robertson. "I learned to think for myself there," she said.

Meyer grew up in the countryside in Albertina, a small town in the south-western Cape. Running was a natural response to her environment. "In the cities, kids have so many other things to do," she said. While Budd suffered from lack of good parenting, Meyer was protected. "It was a real advantage that I was

never pushed at a young age," she said.

Soon after McColgan's victory in Tokyo, South Africa was readmitted from 16 years in isolation in time for the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Meyer finished runner-up to Derartu Tulu, from Ethiopia, in the 10,000 metres, black and white Africa symbolically sharing a track and a celebration.

"Back in 1994, when Zola competed at the Olympics, I also qualified for South Africa [theoretically] but for another eight years I could not compete internationally, so it was really special to run in the Olympics," Meyer said. "Even though gold would have been better, emotionally it was a special achievement. Even if I win

a gold medal in the future it will never be as rewarding as the medal in Barcelona."

Since then, Meyer's career has suffered interruptions through injury and marathon near-misses, although she did win the world half-marathon title and World Cup 10,000 metres in 1994. She has finished second twice and third once in the Boston Marathon and a third in Chicago. Her best time is 2hr 25min 1sec, set in her first marathon.

So what about Zola's prediction?

"It is my goal to run under 2:20, but it is unrealistic if your best is 2:25, so my aim is to go closer to that on Sunday." Her 6hr 44 half-marathon victory in Tokyo in January, together with the best

training form of her life, and nine months without injury, make her the woman to beat.

The withdrawal yesterday of Fernanda Ribeiro removed another tree from her path. Ribeiro, last year's winner, on the injury list. Record prize and bonus money is on offer for Sunday, with some \$200,000 (around £124,000) within Meyer's grasp. Long gone are the days when Meyer raced on paper. The real paper chase awaits.

**LINKS**  
[www.london-marathon.co.uk](http://www.london-marathon.co.uk)  
— official event site  
**TELEVISION:** Sunday, BBC1, live from 8.45am

# Making an exhibition of marathon runners

If you think that the thousands of men and women plodding their way around the miles of the Flora London Marathon this Sunday need superhuman stamina, you should see them when they stagger to pick up their running numbers.

They will be there today, at the London Arena, great herds of them men and women, the short, the tall, the thin and the very thin, standing in line for the toughest event in town — the Great London Marathon Exhibition.

As they shuffle forward clutching their Flora London Marathon bags, with their numbers and the microchips that they tape to their shoes to monitor every step, all their months of training and self-discipline will be cruelly put to the test. For they step into a strange and challenging maze of stalls, stands and screens — half Aladdin's cave, half ideal Running Kit Exhibition.

It's stuffed with running shoes, kit, videos, books, gadgets, gels, pills and strange potions — all guaranteed to make even the most well-prepared runner feel hopelessly inadequate.

Can you really contemplate going to the start line on Sunday without a "chill-band" that refrigerates your head, a magic pain-relieving patch, or a Velcro clip to strap energy bars to your shorts? In case the weather is foul on race day, you can even get yourself a pair of waterproof socks called "Porelli drys". There is a guy jogging round and round in an inflatable paddling pool offering to let you feel his feet as proof that they work.

The best advice for any marathon runner in the days leading up to the race is: don't try anything new, and don't buy anything new. Try telling that to the mid-pack runners nervously



padding round the shoe-packed stands. These men and women are vulnerable, ever ready to be seduced by the go-faster promises that lurk in the aisles.

At every turn there are shoes that must be faster, lighter and more comfortable than the ones that you trusted would get you past Buckingham Palace. Not only that, but they are all on special exhibition offer with irresistible discounts.

If you go off slowly, you can browse among handfuls of souvenirs — thimbles and T-shirts, tankards and teddy

bears. You can arrange to have your photograph taken and blown up as a memento of your finest four hours for £35. You can get your running gait analysed, you can sign up for the Millennium Marathon in New Zealand or you can pick up an Ironman sports watch with a built-in personal organiser.

The exhibition, like the marathon itself, makes plenty of space for charity. There are London Marathon posters for Kosovo victims at £3 each, and competitors are encouraged to sport a golden ribbon in the race to show solidarity with the refugees. Get Kids Going, a charity devoted to the needs of handicapped children, encourages the runners to

buy a book of that name by Alastair Aitken, who oozes enthusiasm for running and who has never yet missed a London Marathon. Like everything else, it's on special offer, of course.

Suitably inspired, they can then sign up with Sportstours International for a training camp in Lanzarote for the London Marathon next year. After months of training, some of Sunday's would-be contestants have got incredible reserves of stamina and are quite capable of putting in four or five hours on their feet at this exhibition, drinking in the atmosphere and the free samples. Others are so seduced by that it they'll put in several guest appearances over the four days that the exhibition runs.

You can spot the ones who have been at it for hours; they look gaunt and desperately in need of a rest and a drink. But they will be there in their new shoes and shiny new kit on Sunday morning. If you think they look exhausted, remember it may not have been the race that did it, merely the hours they put in at the Great Exhibition.

As one runner said: "Last year I did four hours in the race and 5½ at the exhibition". Now that is stamina.

JOHN BRYANT



No self-respecting London Marathon runner should be without a ladybird massager to warm the muscles

**BASKETBALL**

## Robinson appeal thrown out

By NICHOLAS HARLING

MAURICE ROBINSON, the 6ft 8in Derby Storm forward, has been banned for 12 months after losing his appeal for failing to provide a complete urine sample.

The decision was announced yesterday by the English Basketball Association after its appeal panel had met with representatives of Robinson's club. The second six months of the ban will be suspended.

A product of Florida State University and Oklahoma State University, both of which he represented in the early Nineties, Robinson, 25, was tested by Sports Council officials after the Uni-ball Trophy final against Manchester Giants last month. After producing only 25ml of the required 75ml, Robinson walked off, contravening the anti-doping regulations.

Robinson's ban adds to a wretched season for the Storm. Once the only realistic challengers to Sheffield Sharks and the Giants, the Storm fell away to finish sixth.

Twice in his first season with the club Bob Donewald, their coach, received two-game bans for his misbehaviour but the real low point came in January when the Storm's Budweiser League fixture away to Chester was abandoned after 28 seconds because of brawling.

Rico Alderson was banned until the end of the season for his part in the incident while Yonick Williams received a seven-game ban.

**CYCLING**

## Powerful Bartoli hangs on

By JEREMY WHITTLE

MICHELE BARTOLI, the world No 1, secured an outstanding victory in the Belgian Classic Fleche Walonne yesterday, overcoming Martin Den Bakker, his long-time breakaway companion, and the freezing rain sweeping across the Ardennes.

"It was a horrible day," Bartoli said, "but it was a great race. It was the most spectacular win of my career, because of the weather and the distance of the breakaway."

The Italian attacked from the finish of the hilly 200-kilometre race, with Den Bakker, of Holland, and Oscar Camenzind, of Switzerland, Camenzind dropped back to leave Bartoli and Den Bakker to fight it out.

Laurent Jalabert, of France, making his first appearance in a Societe du Tour de France-promoted event since last July when he led the walk-out of Spanish teams from the Tour de France, was unable to respond. There was a late pursuit from Michael Boogerd, of Holland, but Bartoli's power over the final climb ensured his first win in the "Walloon Arrow".

Bartoli, twice a winner of this weekend's Liege-Bastogne-Liege race, is now the favourite for what is the oldest one-day classic on the European calendar. Hanka Kupfernagel, of Germany, won the women's race with Yvonne Macgregor and Caroline Alexander, both of Great Britain, seventh and tenth respectively.

**BASEBALL**

## NATIONAL LEAGUE: Montreal 4 Milwaukee 2

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## TELEVISION CHOICE

## A quiz for good sports

They Think It's All Over

BBC1, 10pm (Scotland), 10.20pm

The new series features a new round, "Temper Temper", in which the teams must guess what brought on the tantrum featured in a film clip of a sportsman which seems like a hostage to fortune for a quiz in which the chairman, Nick Hancock, has often seemed to court anger, if not actual assault, by his colleagues, because of his provocative and indeed insulting remarks. Gary Lineker, in the last series, daubed him with mud in a gesture that looked both unrehearsed and heartfelt. It was also wildly applauded. Hancock aside, the show continues to feature Gary Lineker, David Gower, Rory McGrath and, in this series, regulars Jo Brand and Jonathan Ross.



The regular teams and chairman are back in They Think It's All Over (BBC1, 10pm)

gnomic observations on the nature of life and death and whether Simone should keep fighting He also offers a vision of his unborn child Sipowicz (Dennis Franz) meanwhile, when not heading the crowd of distraught colleagues whose worry about Simone is seriously affecting their work, has to deal with the discovery that his former wife is an alcoholic just like him, and facing a drink-driving charge. *Tony Patrick*

## Men Behaving Badly

BBC1, 9.35pm (except Scotland)

With the recent criticisms about the content of the Christmas special still echoing around the corridors of the BBC, here is a chance to go back to the beginning. Well sort of. This is the second series of six with Neil Morrissey's Tony replacing Dermot (Harry Enfield) as the flamboyant boorish Gary (Martin Clunes). The on-screen pairing of Clunes and Morrissey was an immediate hit and MBB went on to become one of the most popular sitcoms of the 1990s, even spawning a US-set remake. The other halves, so to speak, Caroline Quentin and Leslie Ash, continue to provide the antidote to Gary and Tony's laddish behaviour. *Ian Hughes*

## RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: The Property of Colette Nervi

Radio 4, 2.15pm

In print, William Trevor's tale of a stolen handbag and its catalytic impact on two unlikely lovers is a miniature masterpiece. Not a word too many, whether descriptive or conversational. Listening to this radio version, I kept telling myself that whoever it was who had adapted it had a lot to answer for because as much had been added to it as subtracted from it. I could have saved myself a lot of resentment because it transpired that the adapter was none other than Trevor himself. Nevertheless, I'm not sure that he has improved on the original, though most of the wistfulness and the moral dilemmas are still in place and, after initial misgivings, I thought the employment of the mother (Trudy Kelly) as narrator served a useful purpose.

## RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 3.00pm Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce, The best music 6.30 Steve Lamacq; The Evening Session 9.00 The Global Update, New series 10.10 John Peel 12.00 Andy Kershaw 2.00am Cbe Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

## RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up With Richard Altnear 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.00 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Bob Harris 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 Take It Easy, Caliente, Cool (4/5) 9.30 The News Huddlins 10.00 The Alan Price Show (2/3) 10.30 Lynn Parsons 12.00 Katrina Leskanich 3.00am Alex Lester

## RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Report 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday Show 11.00 Ian Payne, including racing from Newcastle's Craven meeting with five commentary on the 2.35 and 3.10 races 4.00 Drive with Jane Govey and Peter Allen 7.00 News Extra with Annie Webster 7.30 Wembly, The Church of Football (2/4) 8.00 Inside Edge 9.00 Hoops 9.30 Sponsorship 10.00 Late Night Live 11.00 Up All Night

## TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 8.00 Scott Chisholm &amp; Sally James 12.00 Justice With Jacobs 1.00pm Anna Reesum 4.00 The Sports Zone 7.00 One In Andy With 8.00 Jackie Meach 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

## VIRGIN

6.30am The Breakfast Show 8.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 10.00 Gay Davies 1.00am Richard Aten 4.30 Phil Kennedy

## RADIO 3 (BBC)

6.00am On Air Piotr Tchaikovsky reports on the Berlin concert by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday, Beethoven (Piano Sonata in G, Op 31 No 1; Haydn (Te deum in C, Hob II:2); Bach (Prelude and Fugue in G, BWV567); Warlock (Capitol Suites)

10.30 Artist of the Week: Moura Lympany

11.00 Sound Stories: Architects Peggy Reynolds (Parisian Gothic), who designed the Palace Garnier in France

12.00 Composer of the Week: J.C. Bach

1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert: Jeremy Huw Williams, baritone; Ian Burridge, piano; Schumann (Dichterliebe); Hoddinott (Five Poems of Gustavo Adolfo Bacquer); Debussy (Trois Ballades, Vilon) (1)

2.00pm BBC Proms: BBC Philharmonic

4.00 The Piano Weekly series in which Piers Lane investigates the world of the piano past and present (1)

5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty introduces music including Chopin (Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38), played by Murray Perahia

7.25 Proms in Concert on 3: Mephistopheles Live from the London Coliseum, the operatic version of the Faust legend by Amico Sabatini. John Judge's new production for English National Opera is introduced by James Naughtie and sung in a new English translation by Carlos Wagner. With Alastair Miles, bass; David Rendall, tenor; English National

## MUSIC

Opera Chorus and Orchestra under Oliver von Deym. Prologue: Acts 1 and 2 8.00 The Devil with the Barber, Tom Rossouw. Includes the numerous musical offerings of the Faust legend inspired by both Goethe and Marlowe 9.20 Mephistopheles, Acts 3 and 4: Epilogue

## 10.30 Postscript: Seamus Heaney at 65 (4/5)

10.40 Haydn (Piano Trio in E, HV 30). Performed by the Beau's Trio

11.00 The World Tonight with Tom Bradby. Includes the legend of Kurt Schwitters' artwork included architecture, sculpture, literature and politics

11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton concludes his visit to the Chichester Festival Theatre's Jazz Parade concert with a set from the Great British Jazz Band

12.00 Through the Night includes 12.05am Schumann (Fantasie 'Manfred') 12.15 Brahms (Jauchzet dem Herrn) 12.30 Mozart (String Quartet in D, K575) 1.00 Danish National Opera 1.30 Schonwandt, Nielsen and Haydn 2.25 Gounod (Concerto grosso No 12, Folia) 2.40 Nicolai (Overture: The Merry Wives of Windsor) 2.50 Mozart (Piano Concerto No 20) 3.20 Mendelssohn (Viola Sonata) 3.50 Schumann (Gesänge der Frühling) 4.05 Aviason (String Quartet No 1) 4.50 Then, 5.00 Schubert (Song of the Woods) 5.15 Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto in E minor) 5.25 Pykkenen (Summer Scene) 5.40 Holmboe (Song at Sunset) 5.50 Shostakovich (Festival Overture)

## CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easter Broadcast. A selection of rousing music to start the day 8.00 Harry Kelly: The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Requests: Jane Jones presents favourite music 2.00pm Concerto, Chopin (Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor) 3.00 Jamie Crichton: Continuous Classical and Alternative 6.00pm The Great Goethe Concert Seven John Brunning introduces classic sounds 9.00 Evening Concert: Suite (Mennise Jubile Overture); Schubert (Symphony No 4 in C minor); Rosini (Messa di Milano); Chausson (Poeme for Violin and Orchestra) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto, Chopin (Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor) 4.00 Mark Griffiths: The Early Breakfast Show

## WALES

7.00 The Archers The latest from Ambrose

7.15 Front Row Francis Stock discusses the science fiction novels of Doris Lessing

7.45 Story of a Provincial Lady E.M. Delafield's household journal. Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour

8.00 The Khalil Pasha One, See Choice (1/2)

8.30 The Week in Westminster

9.00 Leading Edge Geoff Watts reports on the latest research into the origins of life

9.30 Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time Broadcast earlier

10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Anchored Alan Howard reads part nine of Robert Harris's thriller

11.00 Late Night on 4: Do Go On A satirical discussion of man's absurdity, focusing on manners (3/6)

11.30 (FM) Experimental Feature: Your Place or Mine? Damon Collinson investigates County music in Branson, Missouri (3/5) (1)

11.30 (LW) Today in Pictures

12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Earthly Joys Part nine of Philippa Gregory's novel

12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service



## Lessons of Hillsborough still need to be learnt

Rob Hughes on the tenth anniversary of the tragedy in which 96 supporters died

**O**n the first anniversary, 30,000 people gathered inside Anfield Stadium for a memorial service and Bill Shankly's widow, Jessie, lit the eternal flame to a monument for 95 Liverpool supporters killed at Hillsborough.

On the fifth anniversary, 96 red roses — another victim's life-support system had been switched off — were laid by family and friends. They stood on the Spion Kop, the huge terraced banking named after Liverpool's dead of the Boer War and as synonymous with the city as the Beatles. The Kop was dismantled soon afterwards to comply with the all-seater ruling of the Taylor Report.

And today, April 15, the tenth anniversary of Hillsborough, when the expectation and joy of an FA Cup semi-final turned into tragedy, perhaps 10,000 Liverpudians, and some from Nottingham who shared the horror, will be drawn back to Anfield. The clocks will be set at 3.06pm and Ray Lewis, the referee at Hillsborough, will signal the silent tribute.

Wherever we were that spring day, it is bound to touch us. In one sense it seems like yesterday, the avalanche of emotions, the image of men on the upper balcony reaching down like human cranes to haul out of the morass anyone who had the strength to hold on. There were youths tearing down advertising boards to act as stretchers, men and women trying to revive, or to comfort the dying.

Those caged in included a medical doctor, several nurses, a professor of economic science, the son of a policeman. Some had swapped seats to stand and to sing shoulder to shoul-

der, and died doing it. The sores have not healed. The antiquated stadiums have, perforce, been replaced, at a cost of £600 million, by fine and safe arenas. But the families cry out for justice. The Government resists another judicial review, and from the police to the survivors the Hillsborough Families Support Group, there seems eternal infighting to lay blame and to make claim for further compensation.

But there were heroes. I shall not forget Ian Clarke, then 16, and presumably one of those derided in the kneejerk aftermath of the late Nicholas Ridley, the then Environment Secretary, as "this blemish" on our civilisation. "I started pulling people out from the pile of bodies," the schoolboy recalled. "I learnt life-saving at my swimming club, so I gave mouth-to-mouth to ten or 12 of them. They were really purple, but I think about eight came back to life."

"I went back for more, but there was another surge and was knocked to the ground. It was like being underwater when you can't get back up and you've got no air. I was trying to fight, but there were bodies on top of me." Clarke regained consciousness on the pitch after a policeman had dragged him clear.

We need, after that, no photograph to revive Hillsborough. Yet this week, eerily redolent, some front pages brought us visions of masses behind steel fencing, groping for a hold, anguished. It was not Hillsborough, but Kosovo; it has taken war and atrocities to equal Hillsborough.

In Britain today there are no football fences. I never understood why, of all the recriminations, few settled on administrators who had ordered the steel caging engineers who erected it, or security officers who passed it. The tragedy of human panic occurred through the sheer confinement of too many people behind an immovable fence in which there was one narrow gate. This, when the deadly surge came, became almost a catalyst, a suction pump, to people trying to flee.

Alas, Manchester United are now preparing for Europe, and for a stadium in Turin, the home of Juventus, that has fences, and that threatens to be overcrowded. As at Hillsborough, people intend to go to a football match without tickets and to a stadium that is booked to capacity. They hope, evidently, for black-market tickets. Lord Justice Taylor proposed that ticket touting, in this country, be made a criminal offence, but it remains rife on the Continent.

Whatever decisions we have to take," Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister in 1989, said, standing on the Hillsborough terraces mangled with torn and broken steel, "will be taken. We cannot go through this again." Are we so sure? Each of football's tragedies, from Heysel to Bradford to Hillsborough, came because there was no escape. On April 15, in 1989, the *Titanic* went down and people perished because adequate escape had not been planned.

We cannot turn back the clock. It remains, for those who remember Hillsborough, at 3.06pm.

**'At Wembley, 15 times a year, there is danger'**

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Stephen Collingham: therapeutic exercise

## Champion in fighting mood

CAROLINE McALLISTER, from Lochwinnoch, may have wished for a more upbeat start to her defence of the women's world indoor singles title at Prestwick, but at least her two victories yesterday virtually assured her of a place in the knockout stage.

She was certainly worried in her opening match, when she trailed Karina Norman, 2-4, in the deciding set, but in the manner of

a true champion, she scored a full house to end 6-4, and took the winning single on the next end for a 7-3, 4-7, 7-4 victory.

A poor start in her second group match saw her lose the first set, 2-7, to Acres Davies, the Welsh champion, but another full house at the start of the second set turned the game her way, and she returned a tidy 2-7, 7-2, 7-4 card.

مكتبة من الأصل

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1, FM 97.5-99.8, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8, LW 198; MW 720; RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 893, 900; RADIO 6, MW 1197, 1215; TALK RADIO, MW 1053, LW 198 (12.45-5.55pm). Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peek, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe

# Quality TV? They must be barking mad

If you want to stay fit and widen your circle of acquaintances you cannot beat keeping a dog. Of it can be observed walking off a heavy meal by pushing a vacuum cleaner up and down the living room carpet to collect the dog's hairs, which replicate themselves tenfold upon the dog for every thousand that are dumped on the carpet.

And I am now on familiar terms with people in relatively distant parts of the town, who ring me up having read the telephone number that dangles from the neck of the great beast who is stretched out on their pado, sleeping off the exertion that attends eating the contents of their compost heap.

These huge advantages of dog ownership, together with the requirement — plainly absent in my case — for fences a par with a maximum security prison, need to be kept firmly in mind while watching *Battersea Dogs Home*

(BBC1), a new series that started last night. Otherwise one could come away with the impression that all a dog does is throw itself at wire mesh while barking insanely. Heaven forfend.

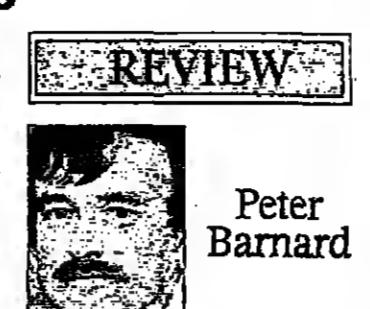
There is a terrific series to be made about dogs. What a shame this isn't it. Nor was *Animal Hospital*, in which Rolf Harris simmered over assorted ailing creatures. Battersea is more social than medical, though the series opened with Mama, a pregnant bull terrier cross, which duly delivered seven puppies.

Actually, I have been trying to forget what the series really opened with, but I can repress it no longer. It opened with the theme music\*, which consisted of assorted dogs barking out the lyrics of *Perfect Day*. Hilarious? Not even slightly. Gross? Now you're getting warm. Then came Mama, who was something of a fair-weather mama. She rolled on

one puppy, suffocating it, another died and the remaining five were taken for fear that their sickly condition might make the mother turn on them\*.

**P**robably *Battersea Dogs Home* was in the can before the BBC decided to "dumb up" and ignore the ratings, for the only possible point of this show is to get people to sit down in front of it because it contains dogs. You might as well sit down in my living room that contains a dog. A sleeping dog, more often than not, so that the experience is about as informative as the programme, but a darn sight quieter.

The series someone ought to be making is the one about why we have so many dogs and how our relationship with them has changed over the years. Did you know that dogs have become more dominant because the use of central heating has encouraged



Peter Barnard

riveting, pass the Dyson.

The television companies have taken ages to come up with another excuse for putting Diana, Princess of Wales on the screen but last night ITV ran a one-off documentary, *The Unseen Royals*, a title that would be reported to the Office of Fair Trading if it was an advert. Apart from a couple of private snapshots, there was nothing unseen about these royals.

Ordinary people who had met the royals were the focus of the programme, giving their impressions of the monarch and the rest of them. Nothing very original there, but some of the observations served a genuine need, for they gave a balance to the perceived notion that whereas Diana was a saint who walked the Earth, the Prince of Wales is some sort of unfeeling git who lives in a palace on the planet Zog.

There was a powerful contribution from David Akinsanya, a former bad boy turned journalist, pop impresario and dressless worker for the Prince's Trust, who usefully built a word bridge across the chasm between perception and reality: "Once you get to know [Prince Charles] he's... an OK sort of bloke. In fact I think the sun shines out of his ass. Given his position in life, he doesn't need to give a monkey's about what's going on. You can whisk through every town in your Roller or Daimler and not give a monkey's."

Diana got more attention than anyone else. I wonder why that can be? The footage included a classic illustration of what it is that she had and why that made her special. Two little girls, Hayley and Holly, had been in a hospital Diana visited and Hayley was deputised to give the Princess a

bunch of flowers. Hayley was asked about her impressions of meeting Diana. She used 17 words where others have needed a thousand: "She looked right into my face and her eyes were sparkly... she made me feel really special." Yes, that is exactly what she did do and that is exactly what so many members of the Royal Family signal fail to do.

Consider for example another experience from David Akinsanya's encounters with the royals. He recalled the time that he took a rap band he was managing to meet the Duke of Edinburgh. Akinsanya is black, as was the band. "So what part of the world are you from?" the Duke asked. Philip got the answer he deserved, which was the truth: "Hackney".

The establishing of a multi-ethnic Britain was always going to be a bottom-up, rather than a top-down, process. Just as well, it would seem.

## BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (68399)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (62888)
- 9.00 Kilroy (T) (696134)
- 9.45 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (803063)
- 10.15 The Vanessa Show (T) (8994478)
- 11.00 News; Weather (T) (5820738)
- 11.05 City Hospital (T) (8030467)
- 11.55 News; Weather (T) (6140270)
- 12.00 Going for Gold (433757)
- 12.25pm Wipeout (5988842)
- 12.50 The Weather Show (T) (7689399)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (12365)
- 1.30 Regional News; Weather (5988644)
- 1.40 Neighbours Sarah and Karl are found in a compromising position (T) (18118641)
- 2.05 Ironside Mark's friend is under threat, so he goes undercover to pursue an evil loan shark (T) (1014399)
- 2.55 Through the Keyhole (T) (2073554)
- 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8410738)
- 3.45 Chucklewood Critters (2407776)
- 4.10 Alvin and the Chipmunks (1244660)
- 4.20 Julia, Jekyll and Hamlet Hyde (5707950) 4.35 Goosebumps (748263)
- 6.00 Newsround (5430080) 5.10 Miami 7 (2208979)
- 5.33 Rewind (T) (409115)
- 5.35 Neighbours (T) (804370)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (318)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazine (370)
- 7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer Investigations (T) (4053)
- 7.30 EastEnders Tony and Simon could be in trouble (T) (554)
- 8.00 Harbour Lights Jane and Philip plan a massive party to celebrate their engagement (T) (1040408)
- 8.50 Points of View Viewers' opinions of the week's programmes (T) (365383)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (545134)
- 9.35 **CHOICE** Men Behaving Badly Gary looks for a new frenemy, and along comes Tony (T) (611202)
- 10.00 **CHOICE** They Think It's All Over New series. Light-hearted sports quiz (T) (76196)



Frank Skinner presents a new series of his comedy show (10.30pm)

- 10.30 The Frank Skinner Show In the first of a new series of topical comedy, the Black Country comedian offers his unique insights into modern living (T) (5544)
- 11.00 Question Time From Cardiff (T) (17592)
- 12.00 Bophal (1993) Apartheid drama. South African policeman Danny Glover faces a conflict of loyalties when his son incites violence in their township. Directed by Morgan Freeman (T) (721055)
- 1.55am Weather (T) (205790)
- 2.00 BBC News 24 (2992652)

## WALES

- 9.30-9.35 Party Election Broadcast (306405)
- 1.55am-2.00 News; Weather (T) (2155790)

## BBC2

- 7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Noddy in Toyland (6208) 7.30 The Bits Master (8919008) 7.55 Blue Peter (5267232) 8.00 Andrew and Murray (8972573) 8.40 Police Dot Shows (3455592) 8.50 Wishing (3451776) 9.00 The Mulester (7668028) 9.25 The Phil Sivers Show (7578883) 9.50 Just So Stories (7407318) 10.00 Teletoobles (66738) 10.30 FILM: The Great Caruso (4917577) 12.15pm Beautiful Things (7047689) 12.25 Turning Points (3264689) 12.30 Working Lunch (43793) 1.00 Wishing (3813221)
- 1.10 The Leisure Hour (T) (1702625)
- 2.10 Sporting Greats (68674573)
- 2.40 News; Weather (T) (8285825)
- 2.45 Westminster (T) (5031757)
- 3.25 News; Weather (T) (5711863)
- 3.30 Call My Bluff (776)
- 4.00 The Village (T) (7090319)
- 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (7093405)
- 5.30 Who's House? (937)
- 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Sci-fi adventure (T) (7409350)
- 6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer Buffy is worried by the arrival of two new vampires in Sunnydale (T) (12809)
- 7.30 Making It The young product designers Darren Mullen and Matthew Plested are hired to design a new e-mail system and revamp BT's phones (T) (196)
- 8.00 Ray Meers' World of Survival Global expeditions with the survival expert Ray Meers (T) (3467)
- 8.30 Top Gear James May test-drives the new Lexus LS200 (T) (5202)



More cross-cultural comedy with the Coopers, or is that Kapur? (9pm)

- 9.00 Goodness Gracious Me Popular Asian sketch show (T) (4316)
- 9.30 Talking Heads Dame Thora Hird stars in an Alan Bennett monologue (T) (20047)
- 10.00 Morecambe and Wise Vintage Sketches (T) (601347)
- 10.33 Video Nation Shorts (T) (188554)
- 10.35 Newsnight (T) (512467)
- 11.20 Late Review Cultural highlights (764028)
- 11.55 Holiday Weather (553776)
- 12.00 Despatch Box (64697)
- 12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: The Case Industry 1.00 Whose Fault? 1.30 Talking About Care 2.00 GCSE Bitesize Revision — History 4.00 Teaching Film and Media: The Holocaust on Film 4.30 Film Education: The Distributor's Tale 5.00 Teacher Training: Planet Europe 5.15 Planet Europe: Socrates Learning in Europe 5.45 Open University: A New Sun is Born — Part 2: The Revolution 6.10 One Fact, Many Facets 6.35 Our Health in Our Hands

## WALES

- 7.30pm-8.00 House Detectives (T) (198)
- 10.30 Party Election Broadcast (188554)

## HTV

- 5.30am ITV Morning News (61919) 6.00 GMTV (2826244) 9.25 Trisha (T) (3555115)
- 10.30 This Morning (T) (49182283)
- 12.15pm HTV News (T) (702547)
- 12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (2649221)
- 12.55 Shortland Street Billy takes the easy option (171539)
- 1.30 Lite Detective (T) (18115825)
- 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5072823)
- 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2079738)
- 3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5770134)
- 3.15 HTV News (T) (6779405)
- 3.20 CITY: Maisy (5776318) 3.25 The Adventures of Dawdle (5759641) 3.35 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (5514989) 3.50 Lavender Castle (52528592) 4.05 Hey Arnold! (7085115) 4.30 Children's Ward (221)
- 5.00 Catchphrase (T) (11009)
- 5.30 WEST: The Pleasure Guide Regional entertainment magazine (T) (573)
- 5.30 WALES: Crazy Creatures Schoolchildren learn about goats (T) (573)
- 5.58 HTV Weather (41318)
- 6.00 HTV News (T) (486)
- 6.30 CITY: Maisy (5776318) 3.25 The Adventures of Dawdle (5759641) 3.35 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (5514989) 3.50 Lavender Castle (52528592) 4.05 Hey Arnold! (7085115) 4.30 Children's Ward (221)
- 5.35 WALES: Party Election Broadcast By the Welsh Liberal Democrats (501514)
- 6.29 HTV Crimestoppers (501514)
- 6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (738)
- 7.00 Emmerdale Mandy asks Tony and Viv for advice (T) (47573)
- 7.30 WEST: We Can Work It Out with Judy Finnigan (550)
- 7.30 WALES: The Insiders New series. A look at life inside Portland Young Offender Institution (950)
- 8.00 The Bill Lennox and Rawton visit Salford to bring in a conman (T) (5952)

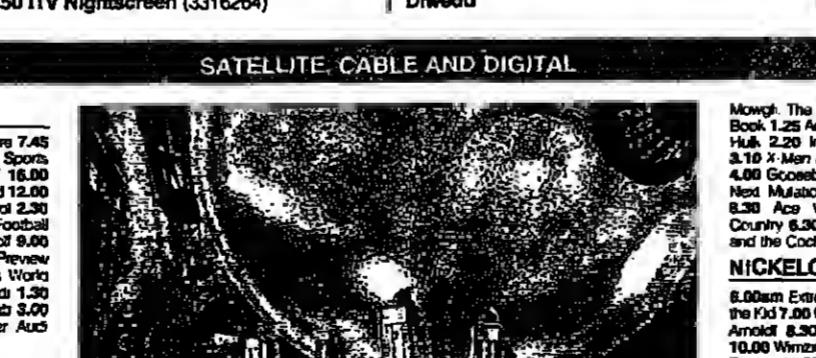


Amita Dhirir, Dinita Gehl and Sacha Dewar star as survivors (9pm)

- 9.00 The Last Train The ravenous survivors seek refuge in a derelict house, where they are able to drink fresh water for the first time since the Impact (3/6) (T) (5028)
- 10.00 WEST: Tonight with Trevor McDonald Interviews and current affairs (T) (9115)
- 10.00 WALES: The Ferret Consumer reports, with Chris Sagar (94592)
- 10.30 WALES: The Sharp End The National assembly's impact (70912)
- 11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (503070)
- 11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (459688)
- 11.30 WEST: A Trip in the Cosmic Buggy The Bath pub and club scene (T) (84776)
- 11.30 WALES: Tonight with Trevor McDonald (T) (5134)
- 12.00 Public Millions (T) (57351)
- 12.30am The Jerry Springer Show (9108652)
- 1.15 Trainspotters (5/13) (262210)
- 2.15 Pop Down the Pub Quiz (T) (12806)
- 2.45 Box Office America 10 (4049806)
- 3.10 Cybernet Computer news (84404906)
- 3.40 Murder, She Wrote (573505)
- 4.30 Coach (T) (83798671)
- 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (3316264)

## CHANNEL 4

- 5.25am Alfie Atkins (9533979)
- 5.35 The Pink Panther Show (2749950)
- 5.55 Sesame Street (5902823)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (97738)
- 9.00 The Bigger Breakfast (T) (3119950)
- 9.05 Saved by the Bell (T) (7950467)
- 9.30 Sam and Max (22863)
- 10.00 CatDog (T) (8892644)
- 10.20 Boy Meets World (T) (3801592)
- 10.45 Moesha (T) (914825)
- 11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (4598683)
- 11.30-12.30 Wonderful (1) (216641)
- 1.20am Jenny (T) (793185)
- 1.45 Pop Down the Pub (24697)
- 2.15-3.05 T in the Park (2176254)
- 3.30 The Making of Very Bad Things (99535)
- 4.00 Central Jobfinder 9a (7087852)
- 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9492010)



Harry Enfield made his debut as Loadsamoney on Channel 4 (9pm)

- 9.00 First on Four The many facets of the comedian Harry Enfield (T) (9486)
- 9.30 Dispatches An investigation into the effects of domestic violence on children (T) (13115)

## 10.00 NYPD Blue

- Blita Simone has a head transplant, but is left hovering on the brink of death with a chest infection and a fever (T) (7757)

## 11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show (931)

- Ally McBeal cage prepares for his long-awaited date with Ally (T) (1567767)

## 12.30am 4 Later Introduction: Prey (5691719)

- 2.00am 5 Later Introduction: Prey (5691719)

## 2.00am 6 Later Introduction: Prey (5691719)

- 3.00am 7 St Elsewhere Luther loses his sense of hearing in an explosion (T) (4202852)

## 3.45am Live Drummond (1929)

- Ronald Corbett plays the former British Army hero. Adventure, with Joan Bennett. Directed by F. Richard Jones (90245)

## 5.15 Luke (397083)

- 5.35 How We Used to Live (271622)

## SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

- SKY SPORTS 2

- 4.00am-7.00am Sports Centre 7.45 Running News 8.15 Unbreakable Sports 8.45 Sports Centre 9.00 Fish TV 16.00 World Pool 11.00 Watersports World 12.00 FA Cup Football 1.30pm World Pool 2.30 World Cup 3.00 Formula

## CRICKET 46-47

Reports from all  
of the county  
championship matches

## SPORT

THURSDAY APRIL 15 1999

## ROB HUGHES 50

Memories of  
Hillsborough  
ten years on



Butt seen as catalyst for success as Sunderland dream begins to unfold

# Reid strategy provides rays of light

BY GEORGE CAULKIN

BY THE TIME the second glass of champagne kicked in, the discussion had turned to new signings and more seats, from bidding for Nicky Butt, of Manchester United and England, to increasing capacity at the Stadium of Light. Promotion, as well as drink, had clearly gone to the head, but when the fog of celebration had lifted partially, Sunderland's hangover had given way to a steely resolve.

Tired and emotional Gigg Lane may have been on Tuesday night, as Sunderland confirmed their elevation to the FA Carling Premiership, but these were not the grandiose claims of drunkenness. Since the late 1950s, when the one-time "Bank of England club" gradually teetered into sapping dispute, the ambition of their supporters has seldom been repaid. Now, it seems, the tide has turned.

Little remains of the decaying giant that Peter Reid first led to promotion four seasons ago, a pied piper serenading a lumbering dinosaur. Roker Park exists in memories and photo albums, attendances



Upwardly mobile: delighted Sunderland players fly the flag after the emphatic victory over Bury on Tuesday night that sealed their return to the FA Carling Premiership



Reid savours his team's moment of triumph at Gigg Lane

have almost trebled and an ageing, defensive side have been flushed with youth and adventure. The year before the arrival of Reid, Bob Murray, the chairman, sickened by the bickering and inertia, had decided to relinquish his hold of the club. There were no takers. Now a pic, Sunderland's latest interim figures reported turnover up by 23 per cent.

They will need it, of course. There was a reluctance to compete in the transfer market last time around - inquiries for the likes of Paul Scholes, Paul Gascoigne and Andy Cole either rebuffed or outpriced - and the tears were shed on the final day of the season when a 1-0 defeat by Wimbledon pushed them back to the purgatory of the Nationwide League first division.

Again, there will be no unnecessary flourishes now, in spite of the money generated by those 42,000 souls who flock regularly through the turnstiles, a few hundred yards above the labyrinth of

shafts and tunnels that previously formed the Wearmouth Colliery. It matters little that Sunderland are the third-best supported club in the land, that plans to lift attendances by another 12,000 may be brought forward. Players will be cherry-picked rather than harvested, the team modified not deconstructed.

"I won't dismantle this side," Reid said yesterday. "I need to strengthen by adding to the squad and I will, because I never want to experience relegation again. I honestly believe that it was a better achievement when we came up two or three years ago, but that's a compliment because I always expected this lot to do it in my heart of

hearts, I know they'll be good enough. Some of these lads can definitely play in the Premiership. You can see for sure the players I mean. I've got to get people in who are better than those I have and that will be difficult. I'm looking at three or four, but I won't take the team apart. They're good enough and young enough to get better."

If all that evokes a lack of drive, the impression is erroneous. Already, there are firm suggestions that Reid, once more, is aiming high, but that lessons have been learnt. Every tranch of his team needs strengthening - from a proven centre half, to cover for Thomas Sorensen, his impressive Denmark goalkeeper.

Midfield, though, is where the battle is won or lost. He has quality in Lee Clark and authority in Kevin Ball, but neither are proven at the high-

est level. Carsten Frederiksen, a £1.8 million recruit from FC Lynby, arrives in July and a £2 million offer for Curtis Woodhouse, of Sheffield United, was tabled last month, but it is here that Butt - aged 24 and terrier-like - enters the equation.

Such is the prowess of Roy Keane, Ryan Giggs and David Beckham that Butt must share the first-team roster with Scholes and though, theoretically, he would cost upwards of £1 million, Alex Ferguson is unlikely to sanction his departure. A long-term contract ties him to Old Trafford.

The same old story, some will argue, but Reid said: "I know what I have to do." Simultaneously, he can point to his reserve side, marshalled by Adrian Heath, his former Everton team-mate, who are likely to top the Pontin's League premier division this

season - ahead, ironically, of United. Youngsters like Jody Craddock, Darren Williams and Darren Holloway are of a calibre that "every Premiership manager would want in their squad", Reid said.

With promotion guaranteed, the intention was always to increase capacity incrementally to 64,000 should England host the 2006 World Cup, but already it is feasible that the first two phases may be melded together.

Fifty-four thousand is the likely target and John Fickling, the chief executive, said: "There's a brilliant untapped market here. We will have to gauge how the season-ticket sales go, but we do have the option of extending the capacity again. We have it as a possibility if the demand is there."

The champagne, the dreams, the words were still flowing late into last night.

Owen out of action for three months

BY STEPHEN WOOD

MICHAEL OWEN, the Liverpool and England striker, is not expected to return to action for three months because of injury. It took his club longer than expected to announce the news and, given the extent of his problem, their reticence is not surprising.

Owen first suffered a hamstring strain in the FA Carling Premiership match against Derby County last month and, on Monday night, he experienced a recurrence in Liverpool's game with Leeds United at Elland Road. He limped off in the first half, but Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, had hoped that the injury would prove straightforward. However, Owen underwent a scan on the hamstring two days ago and the results revealed that he has also damaged tendons in his right leg.

Owen said: "It is disappointing news, but I have every faith in the medical staff at Liverpool and hopefully I will return as soon as possible, feeling fully fit."

If Owen's absence is the last thing that Liverpool needed, it could also affect the fortunes of the England national team. The 19-year-old striker will be unavailable for the friendly against Hungary later this month and, moreover, the two European championship qualifying matches against Sweden and Bulgaria in June.

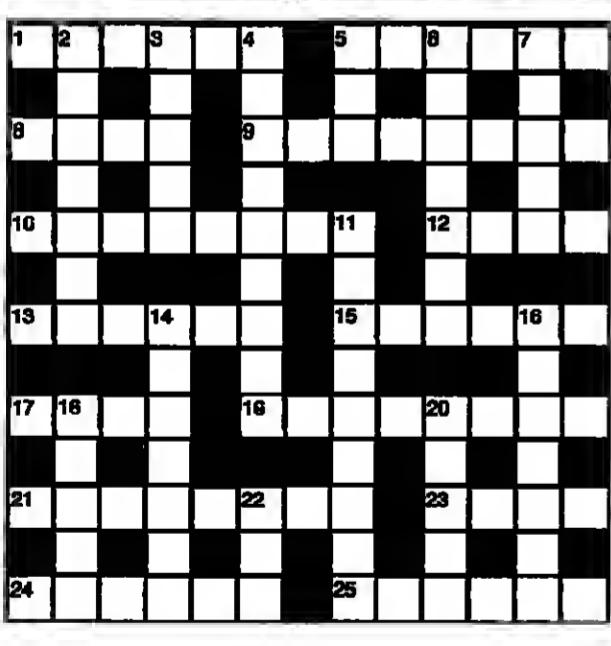
Kevin Keegan, the temporary England coach, could also be without the services of Chris Sutton, the Blackburn Rovers striker, for the games England must win to enhance their chances of qualifying for the European championships of 2000.

For Owen, the next three months could become a blessing in disguise. As a result of his inclusion in England's under-20 squad for the world youth championships in Malaysia in 1997, and in the senior squad for the World Cup last summer, he has been forced to play without a proper break for three years.

Indeed, Houllier was already hinting at giving the teenager a rest in the next few weeks, whether or not the injury proved serious. "We do not want the problem to become a chronic injury, or to put Michael's long-term development at risk," he said. Now they have no choice and the enforced hiatus in his career could allay fears of Owen suffering from burn-out.



## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1692

**CROSS**  
1 Come to understand; six feet (6)  
2 German POW camp (6)  
3 West African fetish (4)  
4 Mrs Patrick —, English actress (8)  
10 Outstanding instrumentalist (8)  
12 State betting system (4)  
13 Soft felt hat (6)  
15 Scots cloth (6)  
17 John —, Angry Young Man; old car (4)  
19 Of the home (8)  
21 Sudden emotional display (8)  
23 A floor-covering (abbr.) (4)  
24 Church reading: school period (6)  
25 Change channels (6)

**DOWN**  
1 Rude, insulting (7)  
3 Place of frequent resort (5)  
4 First Labour PM (9)  
5 Total (3)  
6 A judge (7)  
7 Assign shares (5)  
11 Poetry line with eight feet (9)  
14 Multi-episode edition (7)  
16 France city. Papal home once (7)  
18 Sharp (5)  
20 Broken: a break (5)  
22 Consecutive sequence: hurry (3)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1691**  
ACROSS: 1 Crusade 5 Acre 8 Smithy 9 Urgent 10 Black dog 12 Bawl 13 Embrasure 17 Boor 18 Sukiyaki  
20 Sprung 21 Berate 23 Held 24 Lengthy  
DOWN: 2 Rumble 3 Set 4 Dryad 5 Argy-bargy  
6 Renown 7 Fungus 11 Come round 14 Resign  
15 Couple 16 Sketch 19 Kebab 22 Rig

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## Sudden death of Postlethwaite at 55 shocks Formula One

Kevin Eason on the loss of one of motor racing's defining figures

The heart attack that claimed his life came as he did what he knew and loved: patrolling the pitlane and checking the performance of his latest car, which was already threatening to make an impact on the sport a year before its appearance on the grid.

Postlethwaite, 55, left the Tyrrell team, which was bought out by British American Racing last year, but had found a new role running the team developing a car for Honda.

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